FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-211
Tuesday
1 November 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-211 CONTENTS *1 November 1988*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 November Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reportedly Condemns Jericho Bus Attack *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
'Courageous Arms' in Jericho Attack Praised *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
PLO Accuses Shamir of Arranging Jericho Attack *[WAKH]* 3
'Uprising' Leadership Issues Call No 28 *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Justice Ministry Orders Release of Detainees 7
'Violent Earthquake' Recorded Near Algiers 7
    Earthquake Damage Noted ....
Medical Workers March To Protest Torture 7

Egypt

Secretary of Defense Carlucci Arrives in Cairo 7
    Meets Mubarak, Abu Ghazalah 7
Commentator Views Carlucci Visit, Arms Race 7
Abu Ghazalah on Ties With Morocco, Libya, U.S. 8
Chinese Official Arrives in Cairo 31 Oct 8
Talks With Libya on Workers Dispute To Begin *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Oct]* 8
Commentary Hopeful of Palestinian Solution 9

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Grants Interview to Malian Press *[Bamako]* 9
Al-Qadhdhafi Views Relations With Italy *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 28 Oct]* 10
Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Ideologies, Culture *[Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL 29 Oct]* 11
Jallud Receives Lebanon's Walid Junblatt 19
Chadian Envoy Arrives in Tripoli 31 Oct 19

Sudan

SPLA Captures Eastern Equatoria Town *[Radio SPLA]* 19
Recent 'Successful' SPLA Battles Detailed *[Radio SPLA]* 19
France Contacted on Mediating in South 19
Paper Says Food Situation in South 'Critical' 19
Relief Official on Transportation Problems 19
Minister on Darfur Situation, Chadian Opposition *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 29 Oct]* 20
Governor of Darfur on Anti-Foreigner Measures 21
Al-Banna on Prospects of Unity With Libya *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Oct]* 21
Cabinet Minister on Coup Attempts, Arab Affairs *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 27-28 Oct]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Permanent Secretariat Issues Statement 23
    GCC Meeting Begins 23
Magazine Notes Number of GCC, Arab Tanks 23

Kuwait

Austrian President Waldheim Arrives 31 Oct 23
Iraq's 'Aziz Sends Message to Foreign Minister 23
Burkina Faso Foreign Minister Arrives 24

Qatar

Amir Receives Mubarak Message on Arab Issues 24
Foreign Affairs Minister Leaves for GGC Meeting 24
Saudi Defense Minister Arrives With Delegation 24

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet on Diplomat's Killing, Economic Measures 24
King Fahd Receives Pakistan's Yaqub Khan 25

Yemen Arab Republic

London Paper Cites Al-Iryani on Unity, Ties *[AL-HAWADITH 28 Oct]* 25

IRAQ

'Aziz Meets With Perez de Cuellar 31 Oct 27
    Calls Meeting 'Constructive' 27
Stockholm Paper Interviews Kurds' Talabani *[DAGENS NYHETER 17 Oct]* 27
    Talabani on 'Genocide' *[Paris LIBERATION 25 Oct]* 28
Joint Meetings With Hungarian Delegation Begin 29
    Ramadan, Hungary's Somogyi Talk 29
GDR Minister Talks With Industry Minister 29
    Meets With Ramadan 29
INA Reports Arrival of Irish UN Observers 29
Ramadan Receives Philippine Message for Saddam 29

ISRAEL

'Terrorist Targets' Attacked in South Lebanon 30
More 'Terrorist' Squads Uncovered in Jericho Area 30
Houses of Jericho Attack Group Demolished 30
Shamir Favors Death Penalty for 'Terrorists' 30
Peres 'Considering' Death Penalty for 'Terrorists' 30
PLO Condemnation of Attack Called 'Hypocrisy' 30
Mubarak Expresses 'Sorrow' Over Bus Attack 30
Arab Notables Give Condemnation of Attack 31
Polls Open; Territories Closed to Traffic 31
Pollsters: Bus Attack, Weather Favor Right Wing *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Nov]* 31
Poll Shows 'Slight Edge' for Alignment *[DAVAR 1 Nov]* 31
Husayn on Terms for 'Public' Meeting With Peres *[HADASHOT 1 Nov]* 32
2 Officers, Soldier Guilty of Harassing Arabs 32
Incidents in Territories, Arab Sectors in North 32
    Bus Attacked; No Casualties 32
    'Disturbances' in North 32
    3 Wounded in Firebomb Attack 33
    W. Bank Tourist Sites Reopen 33

JORDAN

Al-Rifa'i: Economic Measures 'Only Solution' *[JORDAN TIMES 27-28 Oct]* 34
Gulf States To Provide $200 Million in Aid *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 27-28 Oct]* 35
Bank Official Interviewed on Dinar, Economy *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Oct]* 35
    AL-DUSTUR Views Interview *[29 Oct]* 36

LEBANON

Receipt of Report From Envoy to U.S. Denied 37
UN Envoy Aime Arrives in Beirut, Meets Al-Huss 37
Hizballah Issues Statement Attacking Birri *[RFL]* 37
Syrian Army Posts Attacked; Casualties Unknown *[RFL]* 37
PFLP-GC, Fatah Dissidents Deny Sending Forces *[VOL]* 37
Intensive 'Armed Presence' in Beirut Suburb *[VOL]* 37
'Enemy Vessels' Sighted Off Southern Coast 37
Further on Israeli Military Action 37
    Planes Fly Over Beirut *[VOL]* 37
    Planes Raid Positions *[VOL]* 37
    Raids Target DFLP Positions *[VOL]* 38
    Further on Raids *[RFL]* 38
    2 Killed, 4 Wounded in Raids *[VOM]* 38
    Raids Toll Updated 38

SYRIA

Reportage on Visit of Austrian Delegation 39
    Economic Agreement Signed 39
    Khaddam, Al-Zu'bi See Waldheim 39
    Austria's Mock Visits Al-Shar' 39
    Mock Holds News Conference 39
    Austrian Delegation Departs 40
Paper Reacts to Reports on Military Action 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Leads Delegation to UN Meeting 41
Najibullah Calls for UN-Sponsored Conference *[AFP]* 41
Najibullah Greets Jakes on CSSR Anniversary 41
Prime Minister Sends Congratulations to CSSR 41
Najibullah Approves Senatorial Appointment 41
Najibullah Presents Award to Women's Leader 42
Keshtmand Attends Kabul PDPA Meeting 42
Cooperation Protocol Signed With Turkman SSR 42
109th Note on Pakistani Violations Submitted 42
Qandahar Deputy Commander Dies 30 Oct 42
Infiltration by Pakistani Militias Alleged 43
304 'Extremists' Killed, 127 Wounded 29 Oct 43
70 'Extremists' Killed in Qandahar Area 43
'Extremist Elements' Launch Missile Attacks 44
Mujahidin To Establish Islamic Council 44
Mujahidin Shoot Down MiG in Zabol Province 44
Mujahidin Move Toward Jalalabad City 44
    Ambush Convoy in Salang Pass 44

India

Protocol Signed on Oil Exploration 28 Oct 45
Nuclear Energy Official on Soviet Reactors 45
Talks With Hungary End With Signing of Protocol 45
Special French Envoy Delivers Message to Gandhi 45
Netherlands Premier Arrives on Transit Visit 45
Minister Urges UK Action Against Terrorists 45
1,000 Specially Trained Police Deployed in Punjab 45
Four 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab 31 Oct 46
'Terrorists' Kill 9, Injure 7 in Punjab 31 Oct 46
3 Suspected Saboteurs Detained in Srinagar *[AFP]* 46

Iran

Iraqi Forces Fire at, Wound Soldier Near Ahvaz 46
8 Countries Meet To Discuss Clearing Gulf 46
    AFP Report Clarified 46
RESALAT Interviews Velayati on Peace Talks *[23 Oct]* 47
    IRNA Cites Velayati Statement 48
    'Text' of Velayati Statement 49
Larijani Interviewed on Peace Talks With Iraq *[Paris LE MONDE 30-31 Oct]* 50
Statement on Iraqi Chemical Attacks Issued 50
Commentary on New Round of Peace Talks 51
Commentary on Lebanese Minister's Visit to Iraq 51
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Emphasizes Atomic Energy 52
Omani Oil Minister Arrives With Qabus Message 52
    Discusses Oil with Aqazadeh 53
Danish Deputy Minister Discusses Trade 53
    Holds Talks With Besharati 53
Hungarian Envoy Briefs Besharati on Pact Meeting 53
Released POW's Hold News Conference 53
    Claim Iraq Tortured Prisoners 53
Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Speech on Islamic Unity 54

Pakistan

Soviet Assistance Planned for 12 Projects 59
Minister Reveals Study on Economic Performance 59
President Receives Turkish Transport Minister 59
Four Indian Fishing Trawlers Seized 59

1 November Middle East and South Asia Review

LD0111140088 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Raid on Lebanon—Air Force planes attacked and destroyed "terrorist" targets in the Sidon and Al-Damur areas of Lebanon 1 November, IDF radio announced. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that two people were killed and four wounded in the raids on Palestinian positions east of Sidon, adding that Israeli planes also attacked positions in the Al-Na'imah hills. Palestinian sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio stated that the raids targeted DFLP positions.

Firebomb Attacks—An Israeli woman and two youths were injured when their vehicle was attacked by firebombs 1 November, Jerusalem radio reported. Some 30 people were detained in connection with the incident, which occurred in the Wadi al-Jawz area of East Jerusalem.

In the wake of the 30 October firebomb attack near Jericho, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked the military advocate general to inquire into the possibility of imposing death sentences on the perpetrators, IDF radio reported. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir approved of the move, saying that "in principle" he favors a death penalty. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres likewise said he is considering whether the death sentence should be imposed on those responsible for the Jericho attack, Jerusalem radio noted.

Meanwhile, the IDF arrested "additional terrorist squads" in connection with the firebomb attack in the Jericho area and demolished four houses belonging to those involved in the attack, IDF radio announced. An IDF commander disclosed that the perpetrators acted on their own initiative and did not belong to any organization, according to Jerusalem radio.

A PLO statement in Cairo condemned operations against unarmed civilians, adding that the PLO views such acts of violence as confirmation of the need to establish peace, Radio Monte Carlo reported. However, a Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio commentary lauded "our strike force heroes" who carried out the action near Jericho, claiming the attack was targeted against Israeli soldiers and settlers.

Election—Jerusalem radio cited predictions of a "relatively high turnout" in the 1 November election for the 12th Knesset. According to HADASHOT, Jordan's King Husayn has sent a message to Peres wishing him victory and expressing willingness to meet Peres in public if the latter is able to form a government with majority support for his peace plan.

Lebanon

A Hizballah statement cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon accused Nabih Birri of telling lies, fanning sedition, and planning further bloodshed in Lebanon. The statement came in response to the Amal Movement leader's accusation that Hizballah assassinated three Amal leaders.

The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) issued a statement over Voice of the Mountain, the PSP's radio, calling on the authorities in West Beirut to take command of Lebanese Army brigades that reject General 'Awn's authority and to embark on a comprehensive plan to administer the "nationalist" areas. Meanwhile, PSP leader Walid Junblatt held talks in Libya with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA noted.

Libya

Col al-Qadhdhafi told Italian journalists 27 October that a group of Libyan citizens calling itself "Barbarossa" has threatened to take "revenge" against Italy unless the latter responds to Libya's demand for information about Libyans deported to Italy during the colonial period, Rome's LA REPUBBLICA reported. Claiming he was informed of this in an anonymous letter from the group, the Libyan leader said he opposes any such action and favors talks with Italian leaders.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid directed the Justice Ministry to order prosecutors to arrange the temporary release of all those detained during the recent riots, Algiers television reported.

Syria

Defense Minister Mustafa Talas held talks in Moscow with his Soviet counterpart Dmitriy Yazov 31 October, Damascus radio reported. They discussed means of "reinforcing the Syrian Armed Forces' defensive capability."

Saudi Arabia

A cabinet session chaired by King Fahd approved measures to increase the role of the private sector in the economy and strengthen the Army, SPA reported. Steps will also be taken to replace non-Saudi manpower with the national workforce, raise the efficiency of government administration, and increase state revenues, though not in a way that will adversely affect citizens.

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Meeting—GCC foreign ministers began a meeting in Riyadh 1 November under the chairmanship of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Riyadh radio reported. According to SPA, the talks will focus on GCC future activities following the Iran-Iraq cease-fire and on the current Arab situation.

Oman-PDRY—Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and PDRY Presidium Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas signed an economic and trade cooperation agreement during the latter's visit to Oman, Aden radio disclosed.

Iran-Iraq Peace Talks

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz described his first meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar 31 October as "constructive and important," INA reported. He said the Iraqi delegation came to Geneva with good intentions, as it had in the two previous rounds, but it was up to the other side to "present similar stands" to achieve peace in the region. In a statement prior to meeting Perez de Cuellar, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati called the Iraqi position on clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway "illegitimate and dangerous," IRNA reported.

In other developments, a UNIIMOG source cited by IRNA announced that an Iranian soldier was wounded by Iraqi gunfire in the Kushk area 29 October. Monitored Iraqi media were not observed to report the incident. Meanwhile, AFP cited a Mojahedin-e Khalq communique announcing the release of 250 Iranian prisoners being held in Iraq.

Afghanistan

Resistance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani announced that a consultative assembly to be called the Islamic Council of Afghanistan will be set up, Islamabad radio reported. The council will be made up of at least 400 members elected from all over Afghanistan and others nominated by the resistance. No communists will be included in the council, which will have as objectives the peaceful transfer of power to the "real representatives of the Afghan people" and the formation of an interim government.

Recent mujahidin actions include a 31 October rocket attack on Kabul and the shooting down of a MiG plane near the headquarters of Zabol Province, Islamabad radio reported. One person was killed and 17 wounded in missile attacks on the capital, according to TASS. Kabul radio disclosed that the deputy commander of the Qandahar garrison died from injuries sustained in the line of duty 25 October.

In response to combat operations in Qandahar and "growing" arms deliveries from Pakistan and the United States, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said the USSR is supplying Afghanistan with "more up-to-date and effective types of armaments in needed quantities," TASS reported.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reportedly Condemns Jericho Bus Attack
JN3110175088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] In a statement issued in Cairo this evening, the PLO condemned operations against unarmed Palestinian and Israeli civilians in the occupied territories over the past 2 days. The statement added the PLO views these acts of violence as a confirmation of the need to establish peace. On this occasion, the PLO renewed its call to Israeli voters to opt for peace and emphasized their responsibility to put an end to the conflict in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, an unidentified spokesman for an organization called the Organization of Martyr Jawad Abu Sha'ar has said his organization is responsible for the [Jericho] attack. This came in a telephone call to AFP.

'Courageous Arms' in Jericho Attack Praised
JN3110202088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1816 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] To our steadfast, heroic kinfolk in the valiant city of Jericho, to our courageous generations, and to the heroes of our brave strike forces all over the heroic area of Jericho: The rancorous, accursed Zionist enemy is mobilizing troops against you, sending out hundreds of mechanized and foot patrols, and completely besieging the area. It is also sending bulldozers to uproot banana trees, dispatching police dogs in crazy search campaigns, and giving a free hand to its black terrorism against the brave kinfolk in Jericho and its entire area.

All this is being carried out because this enemy, which lives on illusions, cannot see reality. Reality was manifested yesterday when the enemy leaders saw with their own eyes the bodies of their rancorous soldiers and settlers completely burned by our incendiary bombs which were thrown by the arms of our strike force heroes. Indeed, the enemy becomes crazy when it sees reality. This is because the enemy's entity was established on illusions in the first place. These illusions themselves prompted the enemy to form the black scorpion groups from its troops to wreak havoc in the valiant area of Jericho.

However, this rancorous enemy did not know that the hour of harsh punishment was imminent. Illusions also prompted the rancorous enemy leaders to issue a huge amount of threats against our kinfolk in the Jericho area and against our people everywhere. Likewise, illusions inspire the enemy leaders to do what they are carrying out now in terms of the tight siege on our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev to prevent them from expressing their sacred aspiration for complete national independence.

Greetings to you, O our kinfolk in Jericho, and also to our generations in the Jericho area and to the courageous arms that throw incendiary devices at the enemy to set ablaze its alien presence and uproot its occupation of our land. We will triumph!

PLO Accuses Shamir of Arranging Jericho Attack
JN0111065888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0555 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 31 Oct (WAKH)—The PLO has accused Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the Zionist entity, and his gang of organizing yesterday's attack against a bus in Jericho which resulted in the death of five and the injury of eight of its occupants for electoral reasons.

In the first official PLO reaction to this attack, the WAFA political editor today asserted that "the uproar stirred in Israel about this incident has an electoral dimension and comes before the elections scheduled to take place tomorrow." He referred to the contradictory versions made by Israeli officials, who at times talk about an attack against a civilian bus, as claimed by Shamir, and at others about an attack against a military bus, as stated by the commander of the military area, who said troops opened fire against the attackers.

The commentator did not role out Shamir's responsibility in this attack, particularly as the current Zionist prime minister, and his predecessor Menahem Begin, were not far from similar criminal acts carried out by early Zionists against Jews to gain sympathy and support. Such attacks resulted in the death of thousands of Jews.

The editor warned against the exploitation of this incident by extremists and their call for revenge. He also condemned the fanaticism shown by the Zionists against the Palestinian people, 236 of whose children were killed, according to Israeli newspapers, at the hands of soldiers and fanatic Zionists during the 10-month-old uprising.

'Uprising' Leadership Issues Call No 28
JN3010202088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1850 GMT 30 Oct 88

["Text" of "Call No 28" issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising: "The Call of Independence"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice rises above the voice of the uprising. No voice rises above the voice of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO. Call No 28 issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, the call of independence.

O masses of our great people, your uprising is on the verge of entering its 12th month after all the barbaric Zionist measures of repression have failed. These measures consist of killings, arrests, deportation, and demolition of properties to abort and snuff out the flame of the tumultuous revolution which flows from your sacred chests as you, the heroes of the strike forces, the popular committees, and all the sectors of our militant masses have decided through your heroic persistence to pursue the blessed popular revolution and to offer the costly sacrifices it requires on the road to freedom, independence, and the repulsion of occupation. The world at large now testifies to the bravery of your strikes, which inflicted successive political defeats on the Zionist machine of repression and the fascist executioners in Tel Aviv.

At this time in particular, and while our children in 'Anabta and the Tulkarm, Khan Yunus, and Rafah camps are falling as a result of the unjust Zionist bullets in the battles of honor, heroism, and sacrifice, our PNC prepares to hold its 19th extraordinary session, the uprising martyrs' session and that of the symbol martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], in the country of the million martyrs to transform the achievements of our heroic and ever-escalating uprising into political gains on the road to freedom, independence, and national liberation and to formulate a realistic and well-defined political program that will honor the blood of our martyrs, the groans of our wounded, and the sufferings of our prisoners in enemy jails.

O masses of our heroic people, the Unified National Leadership renews the pledge to you and to the leaders of our revolution, headed by the father symbol Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], that it will proceed forward with the popular uprising until the attainment of all our firm national objectives, chief among which is the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its eternal capital.

Our people's victorious uprising, which continues to push ahead with legendary pride and a vigor unprecedented in the history of human civilization, daily scores one victory after another, leaving our enemy and all the organs of repression it possesses to founder and to be perplexed after our great masses succeeded in exercising their sacred slogan that there can be no going back, no retraction, and no submission no matter the cost we will pay and in spite of the convoys of martyrs who are daily falling on the altar of national independence. The honorable righteous blood of our martyrs and their spirits that hover in the sky of our beloved homeland, Palestine, will crown our PNC session with laurels and slogans for the continuation of both the revolution and the uprising, God willing.

O masses of our struggling people, the Unified National Leadership, which is tht striking arm of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people everywhere, salutes, in your name, the leaders of our revolution who will take part in the session of martyrs and national independence and urges them to work seriously for crystallizing a clear and definitive political program that secures the firm and inalienable national rights of our people and is in line with the requirements of the current stage. The program should also be able to deal with the world community on the basis of our people's adherence to the achievement of a just peace in the region and an honorable solution to our cause.

Within this framework, the Unified National Leadership stresses to Israeli public opinion that our blessed uprising, which our people exploded with the blood of their beloved sons on 9 December, was not out of a desire to shed Palestinian or Jewish blood. Rather, it was a revolution against the injustice, oppression, and fascism of the occupation and a national determination to establish just peace in our region. Such a peace cannot be attained unless a Palestinian state is established on our national soil.

As we call on our PNC to adopt realistic resolutions and political programs for the sake of our people and to end the occupation and establish our independent state, we also take the opportunity to emphasize the call that the PLO—the Unified National Leadership—has recently issued to Israeli public opinion and which called on Arab and Israeli voters to vote for the forces of peace that support our people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on the soil of their homeland.

O all of our kinfolk: The Unified National Leadership salutes the UN General Assembly session which will be convened especially to discuss the blessed uprising of our people, to support our just cause, and to accentuate the right of the Palestiian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their soil.

The Unified National Leadership calls on the General Assembly member states to expedite the placement of the occupied territories under international supervision and the protection of our defensless people against the acts of oppression, murder, and forced expulsion by the ocupation forces. The Unified National Leadership hopes the distinguished General Assembly will move out of the circle of protest and condemnation of the enemy's tyrannical operations to the circle of action to put an end to the violations of Palestinian human rights and safeguard the present and future of the Palestinians, so they may perform their cultural role and contribute to the march of humanity in the service of the just causes in the world.

The Unified Leadership appeals to the UN Security Council, the interntional community, and all freedom- and peace-loving nations to denounce the savage, barbaric bombings of our people's camps in Lebanon by the Zionist air force. The gradual annihilation of our people in Lebanon coincides with the oppression, physical liquidation, and mass arrests practiced by occupation forces against our heroic people in the occupied land where they are seeking to ignite the situation on the eve of Israel's elections to secure votes.

We appeal to the UN General Assembly to bring pressure to bear on the occupation authorities to reopen higher education establishments and fight the Zionist policy of making illiterates of our people. The Unified National Leadership condemns suspect moves by certain quarters in Lebanon that every now and then attempt to destroy the Palestinian presence there. It urges all nationalist efforts in Lebanon to join hands in resisting Zionist occupation and confronting its arrogant acts against our people and the heroic Lebanese people and their nationalist forces supportive of and allied with the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our people.

Our great masses: The UN General Assembly session which was called to debate the uprising on the Palestinian day coincides with the 1974 appearance of the symbol leader Abu 'Ammar for the first time at the United Nations, where he gave Palestine's historic speech. The leader of the Palestinian march then waved an olive branch in one hand as a symbol of peace and a gun as a symbol of struggle in the other. Inspired by the speech, our people in the occupied land hold the olive branch in one hand and the sacred stone in the other.

These days mark the anniversary of the PLO being recognized as a UN member with observer status despite attempts by American imperialism to have this recognition withdrawn or [word indistinct]. The Unified National Leadership urges our people, their strike forces, and popular committees to intensify daily action by way of demonstrations and stonethrowing at occupation forces to mark the occasion Palestinian-style, whose distinctiveness we all know.

Our great masses: The Unified National Leadership would like to call the following points to your attention:

1. We would stress the importance of strict observance of the days of general strike called by the Unified National Leadership in its official statements instructing the strike forces to see to its implementation.

2. The Unified National Leadership would like to remind you that the partial strike hours run between 0800 and 1200.

3. The Unified National Leadership urges the sinking of marginal and side differences that may disrupt our blessed, militant march.

4. It stresses the common aim and destiny of all sectors of our people and national factions of establishing an independent state and of self-determination. We call for closure of ranks and directing all energies to defeating occupation.

5. We stress the importance of popular education and the need to condense it and making the required efforts to make it a success, given the shutdown of educational institutions by occupation authorities.

6. The need to keep the schools open in Jerusalem and Gaza and not to give further justifications to the occupation authorities to close them again.

7. We urge popular committees and strike forces to organize voluntary work and join assistance groups to help our farmers reap their olive harvests in all areas.

8. The Unified National Leadership stresses what was mentioned in its previous statements, the importance of commitment to boycotting the occupation's circles as much as possible, and implementation of the instructions of the local leaderships of the Unified National Leadership in this regard.

O masses of the sacred uprising. The Unified National Leadership urges you to carry out the militant missions and activities as follows:

Tuesday, 1 November, is the day of the martyred child.

Wednesday, 2 November, is the day of overall strike on the occasion of the ill-starred Balfour Declaration, and the day of overall escalation.

Friday, 4 November, the day for harvesting the olive crop and on which assistance groups and the social work and voluntary committees will help our farmers to harvest the olive crop.

Sunday, 6 November, is the a day of solidarity with Ansar 3 detainees and all our detainees.

Monday, 7 November, is the day of education on which denunciation cables will be sent regarding the continuation of the policy of making our people illiterate. Sit-ins and protest marches will also be staged against the continued closure of educational institutions.

Wednesday, 9 November, is the day of comprehensive strike to mark the passage of 12 months of our uprising. Marches will be held and visits to martyrs' tombs and the families of detainees will take place.

Friday, 11 November, is the day of family and social cooperation. Needy families will be assisted and social visits will be exchanged.

Saturday, 12 November, is the day of the PNC. Festivals, meetings, and conferences will be held. Marches will be organized and militant cables will be sent to the PNC on the occasion of its session. The days of the PNC session will be days for special escalation. Throw more Molotov cocktails, firebombs, and stones. Let us burn the ground under the feet of the Zionist invaders.

Tuesday, 15 November, is the day of national independence on which the masses of our Palestinian people everywhere will center their attention on Algiers pending the national independence declaration. It will be a day of comprehensive celebrations, whose activities include:

A. Raising Palestinian flags over every house and place and writing national slogans in the name of the Unified National Leadership.

B. Visiting the tombs of the martyrs who sacrificed their souls for the sake of freedom and independence.

C. Organizing rallies in which national songs are sung and strike forces and scouts march.

D. All the masses of our people will take to the streets at 1600 on 15 November. They will use loudspeakers and chant: My country, my country, my country: My love and heart are for you. These activities will continue for 3 days.

Saturday, 19 November, is the day of comprehensive strike on the anniversary of the martyrdom of symbol leader 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam.

Fridays and Sundays are days of prayer for the souls of the martyrs. Sweeping demonstrations will be held in support of the extraordinary PNC session's decisions.

O our masses, O sons of Al-Qassam, O brothers of martyr Abu Jihad and all our righteous martyrs: Make more sacrifices, throw more Molotov cocktails, and achieve more unity. We will continue to resist together on the martyrs' path. Long live the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people wherever they may be, long live the 15th of November, the day of national independence, long live the brave uprising of our people.

[Signed] The PLO, the Unified National Leadership, 30 October 1988

Algeria

Justice Ministry Orders Release of Detainees
LD3110172688 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 88

["Communique from the Justice Ministry"—read by announcer]

[Text] In implementation of directives from the president and on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of November 1954, the justice minister orders public prosecutors to file applications for the temporary release of persons who have been detained during the recent incidents.

'Violent Earthquake' Recorded Near Algiers
LD3110144688 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Algiers/31 Oct (APS)—A violent earthquake was recorded this morning in the Algiers region. The astronomy and seismology research center noted that the earthquake reached 5.4 degrees on the Richter scale and that its center was 50km from Algiers [words indistinct].

No losses have been reported.

Earthquake Damage Noted
LD3110175988 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] In the central western part of the [Algiers] wilaya and precisely at Blida, Medea, 'Ain Defla, and Algiers, a tremor registering 5.4 degrees on the Richter scale was recorded this morning at 1110, according to the astronomy and seismology research center. According to the center, the epicenter of this tremor is at sea, 50km from the capital.

APS reported that a number of workers were injured, some houses sustained severe damage, and other houses under construction were completely demolished at Afrane near Blida.

Medical Workers March To Protest Torture
LD3110193288 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Today doctors and workers in the paramedical sector organized a silent march in Moustapha University Hospital in Algiers. This march had been decided on by the recent meeting of the doctors' general assembly in protest against the torture of some people who were detained during recent events. A number of female strugglers joined this march.

Egypt

Secretary of Defense Carlucci Arrives in Cairo
NC3110154488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1513 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Cairo during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. Carlucci will also hold talks with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, who met him at Cairo airport. Their talks will deal with strengthening bilateral military relations. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner was also at the airport to receive him.

Meets Mubarak, Abu Ghazalah
NC0111085188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0818 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of State Frank Carlucci at the presidential offices today. Attending the meeting were Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Cairo; and the delegation accompanying Carlucci. The U.S. secretary of defense arrived in Cairo from Jordan yesterday on a 2-day visit to Egypt as part of his tour of the region.

Commentator Views Carlucci Visit, Arms Race
NC3110193588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Commentary by Amal Yusuf, political affairs expert: "The U.S. Defense Secretary's Visit to Egypt and the Arms Issue in the Middle East," from "Light on the Events" program]

[Text] On the occasion of U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci's visit to Cairo, it is imperative to comment on the problem of armaments in the Middle East. Carlucci had earlier criticized Jewish groups in the U.S. Congress who exert pressure to block U.S. arms supplies to Arab countries. He said that this would harm the U.S. image in the Arab world and deprive the United States of large sums of money which other states receive in return for arming Arab countries.

From a certain viewpoint, Jewish pressure groups still maintain their old stance opposed to supplying Arab countries with U.S. arms requested for self-defense, not for attacking Israel. But in fact, the picture regarding the arms issue in the Middle East has completely changed. Numerous voices have warned that the Middle East arms race is noticeably escalating and that sophisticated arms and chemical weapons have been introduced into the region. The Arab countries were not the first to start this—Israel did. Furthermore, Israel is still pressing ahead with its nuclear and conventional arms program in a race whose end no one can foresee.

It is well-known that Israel rejects any control of its nuclear programs. All arms experts in the world agree that Israel currently possesses nuclear weapons and is studying how to use them effectively against Arab countries. Israel has launched an experimental satellite to pave the way for launching a military satellite for espionage against the Arab countries. Naturally, the region's countries cannot remain spectators to this real peril threatening them. Consequently, they resort to various sources of sophisticated arms in the world and seek the assistance of experts in this field to defend themselves against aggression.

At any rate, it is a fact of our times that an arms race will not end and that arms will never be an alternative to peace. The two superpowers, the United States and the USSR, have realized this, and a new trend has been set in motion for disarmament and for totally ending the arms race if possible. This rule applies to the Middle East just as it applies to all other regions. It is a basic and absolute rule and one of the facts of time in which we live.

Abu Ghazalah on Ties With Morocco, Libya, U.S.

NC3110114988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1037 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received a complete report from Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on the latter's recent visit to Morocco and the talks which he had held with King Hassan II of Morocco and senior Moroccan officials. This was disclosed by Abu Ghazalah following his meeting with the president. Abu Ghazalah added that he had visited various military instruction institutions during his stay in Morocco. He praised the competence of the Moroccan Army and stressed that cooperation between Egypt and Morocco is satisfactory and promising. Abu Ghazalah said that he had briefed King Hassan on Egypt's ability to manufacture and export weapons. Abu Ghazalah mentioned that military committees comprising officials of both countries will be meeting to discuss specific aspects of cooperation.

Abu Ghazalah revealed that he had carried cordial messages between the Egyptian president and the Moroccan king. He also pointed out that the Moroccan king had accorded him the highest military decoration during the visit. Abu Ghazalah said that President Mubarak had instructed him to inform the Moroccan leaders about Egypt's readiness to provide for all their needs in all areas. Abu Ghazalah said that Egyptian industry is at the service of all Arab countries. Answering a question on the plans for unity among the Arab Maghreb countries, Abu Ghazalah said that, during his stay in Morocco, the leaders of the Maghreb countries had agreed to examine a certain approach to this goal and have issued a statement to this effect.

Asked to comment on reports that a meeting between him and one of the Libyan leaders is possible, Abu Ghazalah denied the news, saying that he had been asked the same question in Algeria. He said that he had no knowledge of this matter. Asked about the Libyan decision to stop media campaigns, Abu Ghazalah said that he hopes fraternal and good relations will prevail among Arab countries and between Libya and its other neighbors. Concerning the visit which U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci will begin to Egypt today, Abu Ghazalah said that the visit is taking place in accordance with the good ties between the two countries, noting that the relations between the Armed Forces of both countries are very good.

Abu Ghazalah added that an agreement concerning the manufacture of the U.S. "M-1" tank in Egypt had been signed. He pointed out that it will be decided, during Carlucci's visit, which parts are going to be produced in Egypt and which will be manufactured in the United States.

Chinese Official Arrives in Cairo 31 Oct

NC0111070488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang arrived in Cairo this evening on a 3-day visit to Egypt. The Chinese official will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. Assistant Foreign Minister Wafa' Hijazi, who received the Chinese guest at the airport, stated that the Chinese official's talks with Egyptian officials will focus on the situation in the Middle East in light of the continuing efforts to give impetus to the peace process. Hijazi added that the talks will also touch on the role of China, in its capacity as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, in contributing toward the attainment of peace in the area. The two countries will discuss ways of consolidating relations between them in the various domains.

Talks With Libya on Workers Dispute To Begin

PM3110162888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Diplomatic Sources in Cairo to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Egyptian-Libyan Talks To Settle Workers Arrears"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that Egypt and Libya will hold talks next month to agree on settlement of arrears and compensations due to the Egyptian workers made redundant by Libyan firms in 1986. The sources confirmed that the ILO has informed the Egyptian Manpower Ministry and Trade Unions Federation that it has received a letter from the Libyan Producers Federation expressing willingness to settle the arrears and compensations due to the Egyptian workers, within ILO framework. They added that ILO officials are currently trying to arrange several meetings at ILO headquarters in Geneva between delegations from the two countries to agree on a basis for the settlement and on a timetable for implementation of the agreement, with ILO guarantees.

Arab and foreign diplomatic circles in Cairo expect these negotiations to ease Egyptian-Libyan tension in this connection and put an end to the Egyptian complaints to the ILO regarding this dispute. These will be the first direct talks and negotiations between Egypt and Libya since the severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1979.

Commentary Hopeful of Palestinian Solution

NC3010162088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Has the Time Come for a Settlement of the Middle East Problem?"]

[Text] The Israeli legislative elections will take place in 2 days, and the U.S. elections will soon follow. We cannot deny that many Arabs have been in the habit of awaiting the outcome of these elections whenever they take place, in the hope that it would signal a breakthrough in the Middle East issue, or that the parties concerned would reach a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. For several years now, this long wait has only resulted in a glittering mirage, which does not quench anyone's thirst. However, this time the circumstances are different. The Israelis and the Americans have not changed their positions in a way that would expedite a solution, but a number of fundamental developments have emerged and imposed themselves on everyone, prompting them to try and find a reasonable settlement that could ensure the legitimate interests of all the parties concerned. Foremost among these international and domestic changes are:

1. The changing climate of international relations, particularly between the United States and the Soviet Union, ushering in the atmosphere of detente. The two superpowers realized that in view of the devastating balance of power, a confrontation is unthinkable, and that each party's previous aggressiveness toward the other has made them both neglect their huge domestic problems, which are often not apparent to outsiders. The Soviet Union is convinced that easing domestic pressures and giving the citizens a dose of democracy and prosperity is a pressing demand that cannot be delayed, lest a horrifying explosion destroy everything. This is the origin of Gorbachev's revolutionary theory for rebuilding the Soviet Union. On the other hand, the United States suffers from unemployment, inflation, and price hikes, placing a heavy burden on the average citizen. Therefore, the two rival parties, who compete ideologically and strategically had no choice but to ease tensions.

2. The loud voice of peace in the Arab world. It was Egypt who raised the banners of peace in the wake of the October war. This rational orientation toward peace was like a spear that pierced the heart of Israel, depriving it of justification for its belligerence and aggression toward the Arabs under the pretext that the Arabs planned to attack first. The Arab peace movement has proved that Israel fears peace more than war, and that its previous allegations are no more than makeup, hiding may things. Egypt's restoration of Sinai in full was the trump card, proving that the peace policy could win many chips at the right time. No doubt, the Aqaba summit between President Mubarak, King Husayn, and Chairman 'Arafat has created the nucleus for an Arab peace force capable of forging ahead and asserting its will, without giving up any of its rights.

3. The eruption of the popular uprising, which it is high time we called the Palestinian revolution, now that it is approaching its second year. This revolution has reshuffled all that Israel believed to be the facts of life since 1967, when it viewed the Arabs of the occupied territories as hired hands who forgot their original identity and whose ultimate desire was to live under civilized Israeli rule. The Palestinian revolution, furthermore, has proved to the entire world that the Palestinian people, whom Golda Meir once asked where they were, are still alive and they deserve to be.

4. The world community has realized, perhaps for the first time, that turning a blind eye to the facts of the situation in the Middle East led to Israel's oppressive and barbaric practices against the inhabitants of the occupied territories. This prompted the world community to condemn these practices and to call for a settlement of the problem in a way that would address the interests of all parties. In view of these changes and the speed with which they interact and escalate, no one can impede this strong current, which bears the aspirations of the people of Palestine. It is now the duty of the new Israeli Government and U.S. Administration to deal with these new facts positively, because the past accumulations have now become a volcano that could erupt and destroy everything.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Grants Interview to Malian Press

AB2810161388 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Interview granted to the Malian press on 28 October in Tripoli by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] You have decided to make peace with Chad, your former enemy. Can you give us the underlying reasons for this sudden desire for peace?

[Al-Qadhdhafi in Arabic fading into French translation] As you know, the conflict was between Chadians and involved Frolinat, to which Hissein Habre belonged. I took this peace initiative with Chad on the occasion of the OAU's 25th anniversary. I wanted to make this gift to the OAU and to President Moussa Traore for his election as OAU chairman. This initiative was not the only one I took, for I took others involving other countries, and they are aimed at bringing peace back to the region.

[Unidentified reporter] What should independent Africa do to free the RSA from apartheid and racism?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This a real problem in comparison to the Chad-Libya issue, which is not a real problem. Chad, Libya, and Africa as a whole should be mobilized to face the problem in southern Africa. This is what we should really mobilize for. We therefore ask the Frontline States to facilitate the sending of arms and African militants to go and fight against the South African regime. It is up to all free African countries to mobilize and fight to achieve these objectives.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you satisfied with the talks you held yesterday with the current OAU chairman?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am indeed very satisfied with the talks I had with him.

Al-Qadhdhafi Views Relations With Italy

PM3110142088 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 28 Oct 88 p 12

[Vincenzo Nigro dispatch on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's 27 October news conference in Tripoli: "Colonel Accuses Rome Over Occupation, Hails Current Relations: 'Italians, Colonialist Pigs'"]

[Text] Tripoli—The Italian and Libyan Governments are about to embark on another idyll. Despite the obstacles, disagreements, and even mistrust that have marked relations between the Italian Republic and revolutionary Libya, Rome and Tripoli are ready for a new dialogue. Confirmation of this came yesterday from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in person, who has decided to send his second-in-command, 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, to Rome before 21 November and who is to meet in Tripoli soon with Craxi and Andreotti [Italian Socialist Party secretary and foreign minister, respectively].

The "leader of the revolution" met briefly with a small group of Italian journalists after a day of national mourning for the victims of the fascist occupation. Wednesday night, at the end of a day when Libya isolated itself from the world by disconnecting telex and telephone communications and closing its airports, Al-Qadhdhafi appeared on television to give the Libyan people a full-scale history lecture on the Italian occupation. In his speech he fiercely attacked "fascist colonialism" which caused Italian troops to behave like "animals" and to "deport and exterminate women, old people, and children." Appearing on television completely enveloped in a heavy black wool cloak, he gave his people a history lesson, starting from the Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines through to the "American colonialists" and the fascist occupation.

He spoke of Italy in very harsh tones, occasionally alleviated by some significant observations ("the Italians are our friends and our foremost trading partner.") The colonel showed the Libyans tables and lists of deportees and official facts and figures presumably made available to the Libyan Government in recent months by the Foreign Ministry historical commission headed by Enrico Serra.

The impression given by the television address alone would be entirely discouraging. "It is some time since he used such harsh words about Italy," diplomats at our embassy commented. Paradoxically, however, a whole series of signals that Al-Qadhdhafi, using his customary technique, has allowed to emerge gradually paint an entirely different picture.

In the Colonel's Tent

Yesterday morning in the tent at Bab al-'Aziziyah, partly rebuilt after the American attack and protected by cannons and antiaircraft guns, Al-Qadhdhafi spoke clearly: "Relations with Italy are excellent from the political viewpoint, and this is due to the evolution of economic and trade relations. There are 57 Italian companies in Libya; 3,000 Italians work here, all of whom are treated well and respected; we have contracts worth 700 million dinars; and overall our relations are developing."

[Journalist] Nevertheless, Colonel, last night you talked a great deal about the major problems that Italy has with Libya.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, these excellent relations of ours are sitting on a time bomb that could explode any minute. [Al-Qadhdhafi ends]

Next Al-Qadhdhafi briefly recalled yet again the complaints and demands that he has been addressing to Rome for years. "First," it is necessary to resolve matters relating to the invasion, the occupation, and extermination of Libyans. The second point is compensation for the devastation of World War II." The "leader" did not dwell much on this topic, taking it for granted that the issues are known: The Libyans demand information about the deportees of 1911 and that Italy pay compensation for the damage caused during the world war.

Incidentally, Italy's response to the latter demand has for some time been that the damages were already paid to King Idris but that nevertheless the republican government would be willing to make a pacificatory gesture by constructing a large hospital in Libya. As for the former demand—concerning the deportees—Rome has already started providing Al-Qadhdhafi with official facts and figures via the commission headed by Serra, and this information was probably used to draw up the tables shown on television the other night.

Al-Qadhdhafi went on: "If the Italian and Libyan states do not succeed in resolving this problem I fear that the Libyans could take the initiative individually." Al-Qadhdhafi's remarks became unequivocally threatening: "I will let you into a secret: I have received an anonymous letter from a number of Libyan citizens who sign themselves 'Barbarossa.' Unless the Italian state succeeds in resolving the issue of the deportees to Italy, 'Barbarossa' is ready to go into action, and they say they are prepared to take revenge personally."

The fearsome specter brandished by the Libyan leader is not Federico Barbarossa. It is Khayr ad-Din Barbarossa, Al-Qadhdhafi explained: A 17th-century Algerian corsair who rebelled against the Turkish sultanate and conducted a holy war against the Crusades from the Libyan coast. "Barbarossa terrorized the Mediterranean and I am afraid that this new Barbarossa could terrorize Europe and Italy."

[Journalist] Colonel, would you sincerely like to halt this terrible Barbarossa?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course: I am afraid of personal vendettas. I have even proposed to the Italian Government the signing of a nonaggression pact between Libya and Italy—a friendship and cooperation treaty based on the 1956 treaty that has not been fully implemented" (a treaty signed with King Idris that envisaged the payment of 5 billion lire, at the 1956 rate, which Al-Qadhdhafi maintains was paid to a regime that did not represents the Libyan people.) Perhaps Libyan diplomats are currently discussing this accord with their Italian counterparts. Al-Qadhdhafi added that "with a view to the cooperation accord with Italy I have planned a visit to Italy by Major Jallud before 21 November."

Welcome Guests

[Journalist] What about Andreotti's visit?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We welcome reciprocal meetings. I have been paving the way for this visit for some time.

[Journalist] Will Craxi visit before Andreotti? The Socialist secretary has started a tour of the countries of the greater Maghreb....

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, a visit by Craxi is also envisaged, though I cannot indicate an exact date. We welcome the Socialist secretary's visit.

[Journalist] Craxi has visited Algeria—a country that has recently had major problems. Are you worried about the Algerian situation?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have indeed been very worried. However, the situation has returned to normal now and does not constitute a new phenomenon in the region. [Al-Qadhdhafi ends]

Libya's new course promises a political dialogue seasoned as usual with a few resounding warnings (as in the case of Barbarossa.) A far cry, this, from past "glories"—the threats and explosions, both verbal and literal. "Barbarossa" is only a pale reminder of what the "madman of Tripoli" once was.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Ideologies, Culture

JN3010131088 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 29 Oct 88 pp 12-18

[Interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Paul Sha'ul—date, place not given]

[Text] AL-MUSTAQBAL: Let us suppose that the popular revolution in its new form is aimed at transcending the current patterns that can be explained in two ways: materialism and material trends as an explanatory and analytical method; and the spiritual trend, which is Islam and which can be called theology in general. Undoubtedly, these two trends constitute two comprehensive experiments: the holistic [shumuliyah] religious experiment and the holistic material experiment.

As Your Excellency has said, the communist experiment has reached a dead end. We can also say that the religious experiments in certain directions, also seem to be heading for an obscure destination. In view of the above, and amid all these directions, how could a cultural element emerge from the various elements over the past 20 years of the Libyan revolution?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In my view, and regardless of religious beliefs and religions, the natural thing is that at both the beginning and the end there are always creatures living on this earth—humans, people, and nations.

Let us suppose that these humans have no religion—and there are many people who do not believe—how do these people view their lives and make them?

This is the basis. The basis is that people have the right to formulate their lives the way they like and not according to methods other external parties would like them to follow.

External interference in formulating people's lives is injustice. First, people have to be free, then they can determine their future as they wish. They can establish a republic or a Jamahiriyah; follow socialism or capitalism. They can sleep, work, dance the way they like.

The Third World theory, as enunciated in the "Green Book" is the result of this long period which is full of human experience. By studying history, I have witnessed the coercive interference in people's choices.

The Iranians for instance did not want to occupy Egypt or Greece but Cambyse is the one who wanted to occupy Egypt in 525 BC and become a conqueror.

The ordinary people whom Napoleon conscripted did not want to fill the Danube with their bodies to form a bridge so he could pass over to Russia. They did not want to go to the cold Russia to die there. Napoleon wanted this. The coercive interference by commanders and leaders tortured the people because they forced them to do what they did not like. We have seen the regrettable results of these practices.

Eventually, what is right is for the people's will to triumph. We must resort to ordinary people, to men, who want to establish their jamahiri system in a form of popular groups—conferences and committees—in order to freely decide what they want.

In short, I think that the sacred thing on this earth is the people's free will, unfettered by coercive interference.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you believe, Your Excellency, that the ideologies of the 20th century, which the French Revolution paved the way for and the Bolshevik revolution and then all subsequent revolutions crystallized, were in your opinion coercive revolutions? Could we discuss the issue down this line of thinking?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No. My explanation of them is that they are mere steps down the road. I believe that the end of the road is to establish the Jamahiriyah. Establishing the Jamahiriyah system means that all people have access to the power; that is forming the people's congresses and committees. This is the end of the road.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Does this mean that you do not consider revolutions and stages as coercive things, but you see them as stemming from the conscience of the people?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I believe that all revolutions were an attempt at realizing this dream. They were the steps down the road.

Marxism liberated laborers. However, it was restricted to industrial laborers and changed them from workers belonging to the private sector to workers belonging to the government. They are still wage-earners even though its aim was to liberate them. Therefore, it is a step toward freedom, but it just failed in its final conceptual aim.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Did they fail because they were transformed into governmental structures, or is it because the ideology itself is doomed to failure?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, the Marxist concept itself is incapable of seeing the final solution because it is imprisoned within objective circumstances. It is as if he looked at the workers in Germany and Britain, especially the industrial ones, and saw the bad situation they were living in. He decided to liberate them. So he created this theory to liberate workers who are similar to the workers of Britain and Germany at any time and in any place. This is why it has an international character, despite the fact that it was inspired by the workers of Britain and Germany. However, it says that any workers, like the workers of Germany, in any place in the world, will find this theory applicable to them to establish the government of the workers and the like and to take ownership away from the private sector.

And what happens? A government or a state is formed and takes the ownership from the people.

The government ideally should have been formed by the proletariat, but practically the proletariat is incapable of forming the government.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: As for Gorbachev, in one of your interviews, you once said that it is hoped that Gorbachev will effect a revolution or change in the structure of the Soviet system. Do you believe that if the communist theory had failed, any other communist leader, such as Gorbachev and taking the communist givens into consideration, could effect basic and actual change in the Soviet Union and the countries with similar ideologies?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Of course, he will effect them if he moves away from Marxism. I believe that this program of his is a movement away from Marxism even if it is said that this is a development or interpretation of Marxism. In reality, it is a movement away from Marxism.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Colonel, let us now talk about Arab Marxism. If Marxism in its birthplace, and in the first country that organized it, was in the wrong position, do you think that Arab Marxism was part of the Arab masses' political structure, or was it arbitrary?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Arbitrary, no doubt. The Arab region is not qualified for Marxism. The application of Marxism in Russia was an artbitrary action, so what do you say to applying it in the Arab countries? Marxism is the theory of workers in major advanced industries characterized by exploitation. It was related to prevailing circumstances in the 18th century. In the 20th and 21st centuries [as published], the conditions of industry and proletariat of the major industries have changed a great deal. They are not similar to the 18th century conditions.

Marxism could have been applied successfully in Germany or Britain at that time.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: As Marx expected?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes. But now look how Marxism is weak in Britain, Germany, and the Western countries.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But Colonel, there is no structure that begins with a final shape or ends in a final shape. Do you not think that Marxism, in some of its aspects, stirred the conscience of the Arab masses at some of its stages toward liberation and the awareness of some of its political and social circumstances against the feudal system and the exploitive classes?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, we do not deny this. It contributed to the creation of a revolutionary awareness against the exploitation forces in general. There is no doubt about this. But it is possible for anyone to shout in the street inciting people against this ruler or that feudalist, with people responding favorably. This instigator may have no ideology; only a shout.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Let us suppose that the Arabs, 60 or 70 years ago, had a highly creative ideology that benefited from Marxism and tried to develop it from within itself so that it became able to create mass awareness, or became original so that Arab Marxism may not be a parrot. The Italians, the French, and the Spanish did this. What do you say to this?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Some people tried. Attempts have been made in the Arab world, but they are doomed to sterility, exactly like the parrot method.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But Colonel, the Marxists are trying or tried to find roots in Arab history, the Arab culture, whether it be Islamic or Arab. They tried to dig for some of the struggling symbols in Arab history, as if wanting to imply that this Marxism had its roots.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Why are we searching for justifications for Marxism? We are even making explorations to know whether the Karmathians are the teachers of Marx or not.

It would seem, for example, that the Karmathians were the closest to Marxism. So much so that Marx appeared as though he stole the Karmathian theory in general.

Looking for justifications is in itself a justification for Marxism. If Marxism is useful, why should we look for justifications for it? It would not be necessary to do so, whether Marxism has similar theories in our culture or not.

Looking for justifications for Marxism indicates that it is rejected, unacceptable, and odd. We are looking for justifications to show that it is not alien and that we contributed to it. Some people here urged such research. If we want to solve the problem, let us solve it without justifying Marxism.

Now, we are not in need of Marxism or any other theory given the state of affairs present before us. We are now in an age different from previous ages. In this age of the masses we cannot talk about workers' government or even about government in the first place. Now we can talk about people's authority. It is the age of the masses. All people wish to assume power and rule so let them rule through congresses and committees without supervision, or delegation of power, or mediators.

What is present before us is this: People are now fighting each other for wealth so let wealth be distributed among the people. He who has weapons now can take advantage of it to control people or can die on behalf of others because he is armed. So let weapons be for everyone and let defense be carried out by all. Does it concerns us whether Marxism said this or not? Now, we want to resolve problems our way. This is the age of the mases, which should own everything. All the capabilities which are now in the hands of governments and states as well as the conflict over these capabilities are owned by the masses. So let the masses march toward the end. You can name this as you wish: Marxism, communism, anarchism, Jamahiriyah, or any other name.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: It is said that Marxism is an arbitrary movement or ideology. Likewise, pan-Arabism is said to be an arbitrary movement. There are voices in Lebanon and other countries saying Arabism itself is an imperialist-Zionist innovation and that pan-Arabism was born by imperialism?

Al-Qadhdhafi: So, who can we call Arabs? The political-economic line is one thing and pan-Arab existence is something else. Alright, let us presume we acknowledge this, are Arabs present or not?

AL-MUSTAQBAL: They say Arabism ended with the advent of Islam. Others say the Arab era was the pre-Islamic era and that the era next to it is the Islamic era and that it is difficult to mix these eras!

Al-Qadhdhafi: Alright, the French are Christians so would we name them Frenchmen or Christians?

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Frenchmen.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Why do we not say the French were no longer called French when they embraced Christianity? What about the Italians, can we call them Italians or Christians? Also, why do we not say that Italians were no longer called so when they embraced Christianity? Christianity was embraced by the Italians, French, and English whereas Islam was embraced by Arabs, Persians, Turks, and others. However, a Turk will remain a Turk, a Persian will remain a Persian, and an Arab will remain an Arab. Islam is a creed involving faith in spiritual and transcendental things as well as worshipping God whereas nations are something else.

The word nationalism means a social link among people so if these people are Arabs their nationalism will be called pan-Arabism; if they are Turks then their nationalism will be called Turkish nationalism and so on.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: The pan-Arab ideology, which began with the Arab awakening and which was crowned with the 'Abd al-Nasir revolution, is retreating today. Meanwhile, there are inclinations toward transcendental, tribal, and regional beliefs. In our opinion, was the 1967 setback part of this retreat?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Of course, victories create zeal and encourage people to proceed forward. But setbacks, as indicated by their name, are a retreat.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Colonel, some say that the shadow of the 1967 defeat extended to the Third World on the basis that this Third World knew its golden moments between the fifties and sixties; that is, the stage of liberation. Today, the struggle in the Third World has become non-political and non-ideological. It has turned into a sectarian struggle. We can say that the Third World left the ideological era to another era, as is now happening in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and so forth.

Al-Qadhdhafi: All that we are saying is included in the Jamahiriyah theory and in the "Green Book". Through a study of history—not from my own point of view—we find that struggle in the world is a national one. The world map is molded on this basis. There might pass an ideological stage, or a religious stage—and religion is an ideology, a creed—but this stage is of a temporary nature. This is an answer to those who say that Arab nationalism ended after Islam.

If, for example, an Ataturk appeared among the Persians and said we do not want Islam because it comes from the Arabs and there is no need for it, who, then, will remain? The Persians will remain. That is, the national factor is the thing that remains. It is the factor that ultimately shapes the world map. I know that the world map is sometimes shaped by religion: The Abbaside empire, the Fatimid empire, the Ottoman empire, the Christian empire, and so forth.

Look, at a certain time, the world was molded on a religious basis. But soon, the religious map was torn up, and superseded by the national map. A struggle between Arab nationalism and Turanian nationalism had appeared, tearing up the religious Ottoman map. The Abbaside empire covered the Arabs, the Persians, and others. But the struggle between Arab nationalism and Persian nationalism demolished this empire. The Soviet Union is an ideological Marxist map. The time of nationalism has come. This ideological map has begun to fall apart in Armenia and Azerbaydzhan due to the nationalist struggle.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is it a sectarian struggle?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, it is national, national. The Sinhalese constitute a nationality, a race. The Tamils constitute another race. The conflict in Sri Lanka is between two nationalities. They might have the same religion or the same citizenship as they live on the same island, Sri Lanka, but the conflict now is between races, the Sinhal race and the Tamil race. The Sinhalese constitute a nation, and the Tamils constitute another.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But the nationalist struggle in the Arab homeland is retracting. It has become sectarian, with some conflicts very prominent and others under the ash. This is the result of attacking the idea of nationalism. Some say that sectarianism is a Zionist phenomenon in the region.

How do we explain the rise of nationalist sentiments in the Soviet Union and other places and the retraction of this nationalist sense and the appearance of a sense of sectarianism in the Arab world today?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This does not necessarily happen all over the world. We might be passing through a religious ideological stage while another nation is passing through a nationalist stage. The reverse also applies. But constantly, the world map is shaped like this: An ideological—religious—stage comes, shaping the world map. This stage disintegrates in front of the national factor. Ultimately, the national factor always triumphs.

Even in our case, the national factor will ultimately triumph. The banner of Arab nationalism will fly anew. All sects and sectarianism will fall.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Will they automatically fall, or should there be certain conditions to make them fall? Nationalism did not automatically retreat or fall because the presence of the Zionist entity in the region was one of the setbacks.

Al-Qadhdhafi: But they are dying out. If we look back we will find that sectarianism was stronger than it is now in this age. There came a period in the Arab homeland when there was intense struggle among sects, between Malik and Hanbal, and so forth. These have now disappeared and nobody is talking about them any longer. Even the followers of these sects are no longer interested in even knowing what this or that sect says on this or that subject, or even who Hanbal or so-and-so is. This means the intense conflict which existed among these sects is no longer there. The various Kharijite [the oldest religious sect of Islam] sects no longer exist. Sectarianism exists only in Lebanon and the issue of Lebanon is not really a religious sectarian issue but a political one.

The shah of Iran, upon the orders of the United States, wanted to have an influence or a foothold in the Arab homeland. Therefore, he created his own symbols in Lebanon according to the plan of balkanizing the Arab region, depending on the financial aid extended to these symbols. The United States and Zionism also created their tools in the form of symbols and parties. Before the emergence of these symbols, there was no sectarian conflict in such intensity in Lebanon. There were only Muslims and Christians and nothing else.

All the parties that emerged within these sects were originally part of the political game which had nothing to do with what was happening, that is, it had nothing to do with the religious jurisprudence and judgement or with the sect as a sect. This means that these are political parties, something which means that they will decline and come to an end once the political stands change. Moreover, once any of the states behind these organizations gets what it wants from them, it will abandon them and these organizations and sects will subsequently come to an end.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Upon viewing the Arab map we find that it reflects separation among what we term sects. We wonder why Nasirism, for instance, could not unify these sects as long as Nasirism was a pioneering experience for Arab nationalism and unified Arab ideology?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Nasirism did that during 'Abd al-Nasir's era. Arab nationalism existed only during 'Abd al-Nasir's days. Even in Lebanon the Arab Christian did not say I am an Arab Christian. He only said I am an Arab. Nasirism played this role during 'Abd al-Nasir's era. With the death of 'Abd al-Nasir, such ideologies ceased to exist and this influence ended with the end of the magnetizer.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Regarding Nasirism, it is well known that you were very close to 'Abd al-Nasir and his experience in an organic and deep manner. Do you think that the 1967 setback would have been so intense if Nasirism had managed to establish a military and popular immunity, bearing in mind the fact that the imperialist plot against the Arab nation was a major element in this setback?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Tito, 'Abd al-Nasir, Nehru, Gandhi, Sukarnu, Lumumba, Nkruma are mere leaders who had no ideology. Therefore their demise spelled the end of everything. After Nehru and Gandhi India remained what it had been. Ghana, Egypt, and Yugoslavia ended with the passing of the political leaders. [sentence as published] These are political leaders, not thinkers. They are not Marx, or Zaradisht, or even Buddha. Nor are they Muhammad or Christ. A distinction has to be made between the political leader and the leader or the thinker. [sentence as published]

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Let's return to the Jamahiriyah's experiment. You have been with the revolution for 20 years. The revolution set out to alter the existing infrastructure—moving the masses from a backward state to a more advanced position. In light of this 20-year experience that adds up to almost two generations, to what extent has the cultural solution which you proposed taken root with the masses in the sense of it being put forward by you as a thinker rather than a political leader?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Only political action may be measured in such a time scale. Even the space of 1 year is enough to judge a political program a success or failure. A cultural plan, however, may not be evaluated within a short period. A cultural program is to be judged over generations rather than years. I don't think I can say that the cultural, ideological program I am discussing may thrive and bear fruit in 20 or 40 years. This must be discussed in a historical rather than short-term context.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You proposed a new revolution, a new content. It may even be said a new historical movement. Is it possible to express this new content in old methods, do you think?

Al-Qadhdhafi: How?

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Say literally or in verse. Say in terms of various cultural expressions. Is it possible to express it in current launguage? Is it possible to express old ideas in current terms?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No. I have told you that this is a difficult thing to achieve. It is possible to create political instruments to carry out a political program—a 5- or 10-year plan. You are shouldering your way, constructing buildings, cultivating land. But it takes generations for culture to create its instruments.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You have put forward a new content. Is it possible to separate the content from beginnings (Tabashir)? Let's for example discuss what is being written in Libya and the areas where the literature of the revolution may reach. Is there a feeling that this revolution has actually changed the writing pattern, a pattern of oratory?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, I repeat that this will only be felt by coming generations. The effects of the revolution will be felt in the future. You will feel the effect of the intellectual of the masses. The poetry of the masses, the singer of the masses. As I remarked when I met with writers and men of letters, the singer of the masses is one who has been trained to get the masses to sing along with him. The present day performer sings to himself with the masses confining themselves to applause. In future, however, new thought and culture will be born from this literature. The masses will then dance and sing and engage in sports rather than remain passive. AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you believe that the intellectual—a leader, teacher, or revolutionary—can play a role in the change in the Arab homeland?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, and on this we rely.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Well, we consider the [Arab] regimes responsible for the past Arab setbacks—the 1948 and 1967 setbacks. Can we hold the intellectuals partially responsible for these setbacks since they were related with the regimes, organizations, and parties whether in office or in the opposition?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The intellectuals did not exist in the first place to hold them responsible. If they were present they would not be charged because their impact will be positive. We want to ask: Why they were not there?

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How come they were not there?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The revolutionary intellectuals did not exist. The tribal, family, and sectarian ramifications in the Arab homeland cannot produce a national solution for the masses. All Arab political tools cannot present a national solution to the masses because they cannot move outside their sectarian framework. No son of any sect who becomes a party leader can move outside the limits of his sect, not become a sectarian, or become a nationalist who works for the masses. This cannot happen because the other masses are not from his own sect, and consequently, he will not serve, become honest, or make sacrifices for the other sects that are hostile to his sect.

All parties and governments in the Arab homeland are captive to their sects. The new thing now is the theory of the masses which became the opponent of everybody. And the Green Book is banned because it is the only book of the masses which speaks about the masses, not sects, tribes, or parties. This book calls for the destruction of all slogans and those behind them. It calls for the state of masses where the masses are equal in the authority, revolution, and arms.

This is the first Jamahiriyah theory. It is not Marxism, which is named after Marx, or Nasirism, which is named after 'Abd al-Nasir. This theory is not called Al-Qadhdhafiism. It is the Jamahiriyah, which is called after the Jamahir [masses]. For the first time, the Jamahiriyah theory emerges not to represent the masses or people. Representation is charlatanism and those who joined parties became traitors. Congresses and committees are everywhere. There is no democracy without people's congresses. These are the new Jamahiriyah slogans that are considered denominators for everybody. These slogans are possessed and accepted by the masses everywhere.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: As a great intellectual you have managed to emerge from these historical stumbles. Do you think that it is hopeless for the Arab intellectual to emerge from them outside the prevailing parties and outside his tribe—the intellectual who can be described as possessing an independent viewpoint and who is unofficially and uninstitutionally committed?

Al-Qadhdhafi: These intellectuals are few and neglected and should be searched for. I myself may assume the task of searching for them. They exist, but they are few and neglected. Lights are not shed on them so that we can know them. Just as there are political facades concealing tribal, clannish, and familial conditions, there are cultural institutions concealing such conditions. The intellectuals are the outcome of this sectarian, clannish, tribal, and familial situation ... this non-jamahiri, non-nationalist situation.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: This means that in your opinion most Arab intellectuals are, from the historical point of view, not different from the intellectuals of the Abbaside or pre-Islamic court where you could call on an intellectual to play a role while he did not basically exist as an intellectual.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I do really want to search for them.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But, after all, you have cultural ties with great committed intellectuals and poets. What, in your opinion, is the thread that separates between the committed and uncommitted intellectual ... the mercenary or eulogist? What is the thread, according to your profound knowledge of the Arab cultural situation?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I distinguish between them on a jamahiri basis. The one whose literary writings and culture spread without stopping at the limits of a sect is a nationalist or universal. For instance, a song whose writer considers himself a nationalist may appear in part of the Arab homeland, but people feel it is not for them. In the meantime, another from the same part emerges and his literary works reach us and people quickly seize them out of their feeling that they are for them in the rest of the Arab homeland. This is a basic difference.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you think that this intellectual, for whom you are searching, can confront the authorities and governments when he is armed with nothing but his pen? How can he protect himself at a time when there are governments which prevent even writing?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We are not looking for protection at this stage. We are only struggling. We are like the one who starts a revolution. He enters the battle and does not look for protection. He looks only for collision with the adversary. He prepares himself to clash with the adversary and does not look for protection. When we carry out a revolution, we do not search for protection from the regime against which we rise. On the contrary, we daily seek to approach it and clash with it. Even here there should be no protection although such protection may exist in other areas. There might be an economic or political protection for these people, but the basis is that we should not look for protection.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Sometimes, providing protection by some regimes, structures, and establishments requires that the intellectual break up with his tribe, regime, or state. However, in this case the intellectual will be abandoning one regime or political establishment to bedependent on another regime or another political establishment. Protection here takes the form of an intellectual who is wandering from one regime to another?

Al-Qadhdhafi: You see? Hence protection constitutes a danger. Therefore, it must not be taken into consideration or looked for.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: This means martyrdom?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This means struggle. Let it be as it may.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Can the intellectual stand alone in this struggle without having a regime around? By regime, I beg your pardon, I do not mean a party. I mean a group, an orientation, an affiliation within his country.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am now looking for the outsider intellectual. I am looking for outsiders.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Outsiderness is beautiful. But I want to follow your short story "Escape to Hell." In it we can find traces of this outsiderness. You said the cafe in it means an urge to stay at the cafe, on the street, which is a sort of vacuum, a sort of yearning, not for political outsiderness, but for nonpolitical. If you are looking for the political outsider, you casually find a human outsider, which is the outsider hidden within every leader, politician, or a thinker. It is that murky, secret passage which he maintains for himself and resorts to at moments of escape.

In my opinion, this is of course not dissociated from the overall structure of your story "Escape to Hell." This makes it seem as a double-sided outsiderness; one circular: an attempt to return to the origins, and another hidden: a quest for a bit of freedom at the cafe and on the street, which goes side by side with that return to the origin, to nature, to Mother Nature.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, this is correct. This is an answer, not a question.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: This story is the solution to the leader or the politician who is immersed in anxieties. Are there parallel solutions to this one?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Generally speaking, escape as in the story is not a political action. Politics does not accept something like that. On the other hand, people destined with a situation like ours create—so as to survive—paths and tracks for escape.

For example, when I meet you as writers and men of letters under this tent and talk together about literature, poetry, and innovation, this action in itself is an escape from another world in which there is political struggle and revolutionary action. You try to create your own world. Even in the family life you, as a husband and a father, take care of the study of your children, and feel that this is not your job. However, it is eventually a sort of escape for some time, an escape from the other hell. The cafe itself is escape, as you said.

However, when one cannot be alone, when he does not find a book, when he does not find somebody else who is like himself, when he does not find the cafe, he cannot take it anymore, and reaches the extent of escaping to hell, especially when other parallel means of escape are unreachable. Then he would say I prefer hell to this situation which is worse than hell.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you consider writing a kind of escape? I mean when you write personal things not ideological, political, or theoretical.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, to me it is a kind of escape. However, the revolutionary is the one who employs all kinds of escape for confrontation, not withdrawal from the battle.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is it a separation for further contacts with the masses?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It is for further contacts with the masses or else. The revolutionary is the one who can employ the escape in the service of its historical role to reach the objective. Even if the writing is to escape, you should concentrate to advance as if you stop to make two steps later. The writing, even if it is an escape, can become a fuel for the battle. The revolutionary is the positive person who turns this solitude into an energy to advance.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: If we read the two short stories "Escape to Hell" and "Death" we will find that they express the unity of human being. In the first story, this unity is represented by the return to oneself and in the second story the individual feels as if he is confronting the nature for the first time. In the second story, the human being alone can or cannot defeat death without metaphysical or social assistance. This is known about the human being's solitude in front of the nature. This is different from the view that salutes death. In your opinion, can the human being alone resist these elements outside the invisible and fate?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The question posed by the story is how to build each spirit separately. It is as if we want to build a person who can alone resist external factors. If we succeed in this we will succeed in the process of building the masses and nation. It is as if we say to the individual you alone exist and you alone should resist and confront the external factors. If this and that person succeeds each individual in the nation will be able to resist without relying on others.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You mentioned your father in the story. How was your relationship with him? It seems in the story as if he is a splendid example in the struggle and resistance as well as an embodiment of human strength?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In general, with regard to the tribal life and our life he is considered an example. As he fought the snakes, we also fight the snakes which to us might be the American intelligence. And the invasion might be the imperialist or Zionist invasion. As he did not benefit from those around him and as he did not rely on those around him those around you are also useless. We are resisting but under different conditions.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: I read these two stories and I was told that you compose poetry. Anyhow, why do you not write much?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Time and other concerns prevent me from writing.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is creativity an easy or a difficult art? I still remember that during your meeting with some ingenious artists at the Arab Writers Union conference you told us that creativity is difficult and that if it had not been difficult, it would have existed on the streets.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Creativity comes from suffering, and the sense of life is a condition for art and creativity. Animals, for example, are exposed to dangers, but they do not care because they do not know these dangers and, consequently, they do not create. The more sensitive man becomes, the more he approaches the factors for creativity. The creative man like the artist, the writer, the poet, and so forth is at the top. Just as the primitive man, the man of the jungle, was at the top of the gorillas and mammals, the creative man, the artist, is at the top of mankind.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: For whom is the writer writing? There is a view that art, especially modern art, cannot be understood except by few people. According to another view, art is the bread of the masses.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Undoubtedly the issue is not an easy one. We can say it is actually a problem. If we want to be realistic and tell the truth, we can say that art has a goal, even if the artist does not pursue it. However, it is difficult to attain that goal. For example, the novel entitled "The Death" has an aim that concerns every citizen, but I do not believe that those who read it will be able to understand it and its symbols and meaning. Hence, we do not expect those who follow works of art to understand them as soon as the artist produces them. There should be a series of interactions to explain and convey this current to people.

If we want the works of art to spread, we have to create a means to convey them to society. It is not enough for us to pronounce a word and for people to hear it. It is also not enough for any political statement to be broadcast and heard by people to produce action. For example, when I say that if we send 2 or 3 million people with knives to Palestine we will inevitably achieve victory without armies, I invite every one carrying a knife to go to Palestine. Pronouncing and listening to words are not enough. It is better to start with meetings and gatherings and express this invitation in several ways. We should draw them, write about them, and discuss them.

I have another example. It is not enough to say that Marcel Khalifah sang his song to people and that people listened to it. We have to explain, criticize, convey, and illucidate it. Similarly, if we wanted people to understand the novel "The Death," we should have explained it and held a dialogue about it as soon as it was published. We can conclude that personal material produced by creative people cannot be absolutely personal. This material is often public, even through it appears to be personal and private. This personal material should be publicized through certain interactions, which are absent at present.

Pre-Islamic poetry, especially the oldest collection of complete ancient Arabic poems, has undergone a series of interactions to reach us. Were it not not for these interactions we would not have known Amru' al-Qays [an old Arab poet] and his piece of poetry would have remained in its place. Were it not for these interactions, we would not have known 'Antarah's poems as a mirror of the nation and his tribe, which rejected him. This series of interactions has lead to the creation of the heritage of Arabic poetry.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Creative ability is the product of sustained interest in language and literature. Who do you read? Which authors do you read most?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I can't say I have been influenced by anyone in particular, be it in politics, revolution, or culture. I haven't been influenced by any particular school either. Take the Green Book, for example. It is not possible to trace it to any specific sources the way you would other books. The reason: It simply is the cream of the political, social, and economic tradition of humanity groping for salvation. Orders come and go, and the world has been experiencing diverse ideologies and conflicts. Under such circumstances where do we turn? The Green Book draws on peoples' struggle to attain final emancipation. It draws on the history written by humanity. Even revolution draws on the wellspring of the suffering of humanity.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What kind of stories, novels, and poems and songs do you prefer?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am swayed in my choice of reading or listening material more by content than brilliant names. It follows that sometimes I pick material authored by obscure people. In other words, celebrity and ingenuity are not necessarily always synonymous. For example, Anthony Quinn, albeit an outstanding movie star, did a bad job of his portrayal of 'Umar al-Mukhtar.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: So his performance in 'Umar al-Mukhtar was below par?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Indeed it was.

AL-MUSTAQBA: The movie set out to be a documentary and work of art. How do you rate it?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Very poor indeed.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Did it lack depth and honesty, or are you criticizing its cinematic technique?

Al-Qadhdhafi: It failed to get to the bottom of this chapter of our nationalist struggle.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You mean it smacked of a spectacular American western?

Al-Qadhdhafi: That's correct.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What is the moment that you treasure most? Is it when you write a political speech or do creative writing?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Certainly creative writing. Much to my regret, though, at times I feel constrained. Even when I am writing, I feel I am not free. It is freedom that makes everything real and open. I feel that I have momentous ideas, but my name and requirements of political propriety keep me from giving them expression. Had I been a university professor or an ordinary writer, I would have been freer to express my ideas. At secondary school, I discussed things with teachers and so gave rein to my ideas so that I challenged established constants.

Now, however, even when I shelter behind a different name, I discover that this pseudonym is soon found out. I experienced this with the two stories. Do you think that now I can say absolutely anything? Whatever is ideal is suppressive and hostile to freedom.

Jallud Receives Lebanon's Walid Junblatt

LD3110192088 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this evening Walid Junblatt the leader of the progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon.

Chadian Envoy Arrives in Tripoli 31 Oct

LD3110182588 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This evening "Brahim Mahamat Tidei" the ambassador of the Republic of Chad to great Jamahiriyah arrived in Tripoli with the members of the embassy.

Sudan

SPLA Captures Eastern Equatoria Town

EA3111223888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] A fifth Army garrison has fallen to the SPLA in eastern Equatoria. [martial music]

SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" campaign under the overall command of the "Bright Star" campaign commander and operational command of Alternate Commander Oyway Deng Ajak, yesterday, 30th October 1988, overran the tea producing town of [upper] Talanga in eastern Equatoria. Details of the fighting will be announced tomorrow.

Recent 'Successful' SPLA Battles Detailed

EA3110221088 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Liria—SPLA forces of the Bright Star Campaign Command, of Nyagat Brigade, under the operational command of First Lt Julius Oler (Ted) and under the overall command of Alternate Cdr Pierre Ohure Okeruk, raided Liria enemy garrison on 22nd October 1988. Fifteen enemy soldiers were killed in action and 13 seriously wounded. [passage omitted]

Blue Nile—Axis Two mobile forces under the command of Alternate CDR Garang Mobil Deng, carried out a series of successful battles against the enemy positions at Yabus, starting from 24th up to 27th October 1988. A radio SPLA correspondent in the area says that more than 19 enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded. One enemy helicopter was completely destroyed. Our correspondent added that the helicopter was sent from Damazin to evacuate the wounded soldiers. The helicopter was (?besieged) for four days by the SPLA forces until it was finally destroyed. [passage omitted]

France Contacted on Mediating in South

EA3110173088 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Angelo Beda, chairman of the Council of the South, has said that France has welcomed [the idea of undertaking] mediation between Sudan and Garang's movement to stop the fighting in southern Sudan. Beda said yesterday in press statements that the Council of the South had contacted France in this respect.

Paper Says Food Situation in South 'Critical'

EA3010214988 Khartoum SUNA in French 1545 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] The UN world food program, at the end of last week, was able to airlift 24 tonnes of foodstuffs from the Ugandan capital to the town of Juba (southern Sudan), the AL-AYYAM daily reported on Sunday. The daily also reported that the food situation in southern Sudan is critical, stressing the need to resolve the food situation problem without regard to political and military conflicts.

Relief Official on Transportation Problems

EA3010214688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Oct (SUNA)—About 224,000 people in southern Sudan suffer famine and need urgently 32,000 tons of food, said the acting commissioner general for relief and rehabilitation in a press statement here today.

Dr al-Haj al-Tayyib said sufficient food items are now available but, he emphasised, there is an essential difficulty of transport. However, he added that efforts are being continuously exerted to transport the food to famine stricken southern populations pointing out that the relief food transportation operations are affected from time to time by the military operations launched by the rebels but do not stop totally.

On the other hand, the acting commissioner general for relief and rehabilitation said military operations in the [words indistinct] people from the south to south of Darfur region, western Sudan—and 60,000 others to Koeti area—central region [words indistinct] of great numbers of southern populations to the Sudanese national capital of Khartoum.

Dr al-Tayyib also said 1,000 bags of dura (sorghum) have been lately airlifted to Abyei area—south of Kordufan region—adding that big planes will be used to transport big quantities to the same area.

The acting general commissioner for (?relief and rehabilitation) further said relief food airlift operations have been resumed from Entebbe, Uganda, to Juba, southern Sudan. [Words indistinct] will soon be resumed between Khartoum and Juba.

Loads of railway wagons of food relief donated by the United States and 20 others by the EEC, 10 of which destinated to Mairam [as received] are ready to be transported by trains from Babanousa-Darfur region—to Awiel, Bahral, Ghazal Region, but defaults in the railways are now impeding this operation, the acting general commissioner said. He added that donors are ready to extend more food items when railway defects are repaired.

Minister on Darfur Situation, Chadian Opposition

JN3010194888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
29 Oct 88 p 16

[Interview with Interior Minister Dr 'Abbas Abu Shamah by Shakir al-Jawhari in Khartoum on 10 October]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Jawhari] Let us discuss the Darfur Province in western Sudan. What is the magnitude of looting and armed robbery there and to what exent do they threaten Sudan's security?

[Abu Shamah] The situation in Darfur needs a pause from the security viewpoint because there are three factors that threaten security there: First, armed robbery; second, foreign elements; and third, tribal conflicts. These three factors constitute a security nightmare in Darfur and are closely interdependent. However, I would like to note that tribal conflicts are graver than the other two factors. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] How could weapons be acquired by citizens? Were the opposition Chadian forces compelled to sell their weapons to citizens as a source of subsistence, or was it outside parties that planned to arm some Sudanese citizens? What is the quantity of weapons currently available to citizens?

[Abu Shamah] Weapons were acquired by citizens before the arrival of the opposition Chadian forces which broke from the leadership of Acheikh ibn Oumar and fled to Sudanese territory. Sudanese citizens acquired weapons approximately 5 years ago, since the beginning of both the Libyan-Chadian and inter-Chadian conflicts. These conflicts were bound to make loopholes for sneaking some weapons into Sudan and for facilitating their acquisition.

Regrettably, weapons recently sneaked into the Sudanese hands are sophisticated, such as automatic Kalashnikovs, which are the prevalent personal weapon in Darfur and many other areas. Weapons also include 61-mm mortars and RPG's, whose shells can penetrate cars and tanks. The arms trade is now prosperous in western Sudan and we suffer from the ongoing conflict on the Sudanese borders.

As soon as the forces that broke from the Ibn 'Oumar leadership, which is opposed to the Chadian Government, arrived in Sudanese territories with their weapons, including heavy weapons, they declared that they harbor no hostility toward Sudan and that their purpose, after they had differences with their leader Ibn 'Oumar, is to attain reconciliation with the Chadian Government. Commanders of these forces informed us of this matter. But prior to initiating any dialogue, it was necessary to hand over their weapons because their entry into our territories is a violation of Sudan's sovereignty. They agreed to this condition and handed their weapons over to the Sudanese Armed Forces.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the size of these forces?

[Abu Shamah] They are a little more than 1,000 people. We contacted the Chadian Government to settle their situation for humanitarian reasons. Their government showed understanding of their situation. Today, 10 October 1988, there is a Chadian delegation in Khartoum led by the Foreign Ministry under secretary to hold negotiations with us on how to return these forces home. We will treat them as refugees until their matters are settled, but if they do not return to Chad they should leave for any other country because we do not want to engage in a dispute with the Chadian Government.

[Al-Jawhari] You said the Chadian opponents handed their weapons to the Sudanese authorities and that the Sudanese citizens acquired weapons before these opponents arrived. Are there outside parties that recruit and arm the Sudanese citizens as part of a certain scheme?

[Abu Shamah] Some joint forces in the Libyan-Chadian and inter-Chadian wars used to enter Sudanese territories for some time. This facilitated the transfer of weapons to some Sudanese citizens.

[Al-Jawhari] Did the Eritreans in eastern Sudan cause similar problems as is the case in western Sudan regarding the transfer of weapons to citizens?

[Abu Shamah] There was no sneaking of weapons in the same magnitude as that in Darfur. Only a small amount of sneaking on an individual basis took place which caused no anxiety or disturbances. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] What is the number of Sudanese in the Islamic corps or the African corps in Libya?

[Abu Shamah] We have no information in this regard.

[Al-Jawhari] How absent can the Sudanese forces be regarded in western Sudan?

[Abu Shamah] Naturally, Sudanese borders with the states neighboring Darfur are wide and it is difficult to control them. However, there has been recent intensification of efforts by the security forces to contain the security disorder. Therefore, there is intense passage along the border areas in an attempt to control them. As part of this plan, I went to the region and returned from it 2 days ago. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Will Sudan be a party to the security agreements which may be concluded between Libya and Chad?

[Abu Shamah] We are holding continued contacts with the brothers in Libya and Chad to discuss all issues involving Sudan's security and the border areas with the two neighboring states. [passage omitted]

Governor of Darfur on Anti-Foreigner Measures

EA3010212688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Oct 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Dr al-Tijani al-Sisi, governor of Darfur Province, announced at a news conference yesterday that the regional government has made important decisions to confront and deport any foreign troops or armed individuals and confiscate vehicles that enter the country illegally. He pointed out that the Armed Forces seized 22 landcruiser vehicles loaded with materiel and ammunition which entered the region recently. He also explained that the Armed Forces had disarmed Ibn 'Oumar's forces and that Sudan is now taking the lead in an initiative to resolve the Chadian dispute because of its importance in establishing stability in the region.

He pointed out that robberies are threatening trade and bringing grazing and agricultural activities to a halt and that those carrying out these activities are foreigners who have no links with Sudan and are the main cause of fanning the conflict between the Arabs and the Fur [a western Sudanese tribe].

Al-Banna on Prospects of Unity With Libya

PM3110152688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

[Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad report: "Idris al-Banna Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Plan of Unity With Libya Cannot Succeed in Isolation From Joint Arab Action"]

[Text] Jeddah—Sudanese State Council Deputy Chairman Idris al-Banna has stated that he doubts that the proposed plan for bilateral unity with Libya could succeed. He said that any bilateral move outside the umbrella of comprehensive Arab unity cannot succeed.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Al-Banna said that he has asked the Sudanese members of the unity committee due to hold its second meeting in Tripoli not to go to Libya pending a general Arab move that would precede bilateral moves and link them together within the context of joint Arab action.

The Sudanese State Council's deputy chairman denied that the proposed unity plan is a plan for immediate unity or a merger that would eliminate borders and passports and have only one government. It is a formula, he said, for cooperation and complementation proposed by Libya to all the Arab states under the heading "Arab union plan" to bring together the various regimes of the Arab nation.

He said that the Libyans agree with him that unity should be based on popular foundations in the context of what is known as the "people's diplomacy" and that they have not refused to meet, in this context, with representatives of Egyptian parties including the ruling NDP.

The Sudanese official revealed that there is a Sudanese initiative in Lebanon, born out of the Arab nation's general concerns and aimed at promoting Lebanese people's unity on the basis of Lebanon's Arab identity and territorial integrity.

He did not give details of the initiative but said that he discussed it in Damascus recently with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and some Lebanese leaders who went there from Beirut especially to meet with him.

He added that he has sent a full report on his Damascus meetings to the Sudanese Government which, he said, will, under Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's leadership, pursue the initiative so that Sudan can join hands with the Lebanese brothers and others interested in Lebanon's unity, to achieve that objective.

On efforts to establish peace in southern Sudan, Idris al-Banna said that the efforts have come to a complete halt and that the government has exhausted all means of dialogue with John Garang to no avail and has no option left but to strengthen its Armed Forces.

Cabinet Minister on Coup Attempts, Arab Affairs

JN2910171888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27-28 Oct 88 p 16

[Interview with Dr Salah 'Abd al-Salam, minister of cabinet affairs, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Jawhari] It seems the government intends to sell or liquidate the public sector. That are the reasons for this?

['Abd al-Salam] The government does not have such an intention at all. The government said it is studying the conditions of all public sector companies and estalishments so the useless ones that cannot be rectified will be sold to the private sector. It is out of question to sell the public sector as a whole. For example, the public sector owns railways, so to whom can we sell them? This is out of question.

However, there are some companies, specifically nationalized ones, which the public sector could not make any use of and which constitute a burden on the govenrment. Moreover, studies will be conducted to determine whether the insufficiency and failure of these companies or establishments are a result of mismanagement or impossible competition with the private sector or for other reasons. If the study says there is mismanagement, it can be rectified, and if there is treatable insufficiency, it will be dealt with. However, if such insufficiency cannot be treated, the government must remove the concerned establishment or company. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Information recently leaked says a military coup attempt was discovered in Sudan. How true is this information?

['Abd al-Salam] I believe this information is totally unfounded.

[Al-Jawhari] Then why is such information propagated?

['Abd al-Salam] There are parties that have an interest in fabricating such rumors in order to create problems for the government.

[al-Jawhari] Please allow me to ask: Do you expect a military coup which may take advantage of the current living conditions to assume power?

['Abd al-Salam] I do not believe there is anyone who considers the staging of a military coup.

[Al-Jawhari] Why?

[Abd al-Salam] Because the Army itself decided to stand alongside the people when it was certain that the military regime was not appropriate, so the Army overthrew it before the people did so.

[Al-Jawhari] The Army did so during the October 1964 revolution, but a military coup occurred in May 1969.

['Abd al-Salam] There is a great difference between October 1964 and April 1985. In October 1964, the whole Army did not overthrow the regime but some units did so. These units could have been defeated. But in April 1985, both the command and the soldier had a complete conviction [to overthrow the regime]. Moreover, the Army is now committed to the charter on defending democracy.

[Al-Jawhari] How far have the efforts to establish unity with Libya reached?

['Abd al-Salam] I do not believe the steps taken with Libya were in the direction of unity. Rather, they were normalization of relations. In our policy, we have special relations with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Libya. Libya proposed a plan for unity with Arabs as a whole and not only with Sudan. They presented their concept to us and a debate took place. It was also agreed to hold a meeting, so if a formula is reached it will be presented to both the Sudanese and Libyan peoples to make a decision. (This interview was held before a Sudanese delegation left for Tripoli).

[Al-Jawhari] So, what is the special character of the relationship with Libya, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia?

['Abd al-Salam] In fact, there are old relations with them. First of all, we support Egypt, and there was a frank call to achieve unity with Egypt in 1946. There was a very large party that used to adopt this call and that is now named the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]. In the first elections held following independence, the DUP won and it was then called the Unionist Party. As for the Ummah Party, which adopted the call for independence, it did not rule out the idea of unity with Egypt but we differed on the bases and implementation. Moreover, we did not rule out the idea of a comprehensive Arab unity. This slogan has long been raised since we became a member of the Arab League.

The relationship with Libya is recent and began during the military rule. The whole opposition, represented by the DUP, the Ummah Party, and the Islamic front, sought the help of Libya for a long time. Libya played a praiseworthy role in helping the opposition overthrow the regime in Sudan. Hence, special relations must be established with Libya out of gratitude. The relationship with Saudi Arabia is as old as history.

Since the past century, there have been wide, high-level relations with Saudi Arabia. Sultan 'Ali Dinar, sultan of Darfur, used to send the covering of Ka'bah from Sudan. Likewise, relations between the Al-Mahdi family and King 'Abd al-'Aziz following the Wahabite revolution were familial and extremely strong relations.

Saudis never failed to reciprocate favors to Sudan throughout history and also since oil production and prosperity began in Saudi Arabia. Indeed, relations with Saudi Arabia have been normal, cordial, and very clear and fraternal. Therefore, we believe Saudi Arabia has a special feeling for us as Sudanese. If you consider the aid Saudi Arabia extended to Sudan during the catastrophe of floods and rainfall, you will realize the fact that Saudi Arabia gave us more than 70 percent of the total aid we received.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Permanent Secretariat Issues Statement
LD0111081788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0548 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh 1 Nov (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the GCC will begin proceedings of the 10th emergency session of the GCC Ministerial Council later today.

A statement issued by the GCC Permanent Secretariat points out that the council will examine during their meeting—to last only 1 day—the situation being witnessed by the region, and international efforts concerning implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598. The statement adds that the Council will discuss the GCC's future activities in light of the ceasefire and the will to build the edifice of a lasting peace and subsequent security and stability to the region. The statement notes that the Council will examine the current Arab situation, Arab relations, and the efforts underway to find Arab solutions to current topics.

GCC Meeting Begins
LD0111111888 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Their highnesses and excellencies the GCC foreign ministers began the meetings of the 10th emergency session of the GCC Ministerial Council at the GCC Permanent Secretariat Headquarters in Riyadh before noon today under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah also attended.

Magazine Notes Number of GCC, Arab Tanks
LD2810032788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1952 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Text] Geneva, Oct 27 (KUNA)—The six Gulf Cooperation Council countries between them had a combined force of just over 1,000 battle tanks in their armed forces, according to figures published by the specialist Swiss magazine INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE REVIEW. Of the 1,005 tanks, 378 were French AMX40s, 318 were U.S. M60s and 168 were British Chieftains, the magazine noted.

Saudi Arabia had the biggest GCC tank fleet, with 585 French and U.S. tanks, followed by Kuwait with 258 mostly British-made tanks.

The UAE tank force numbered 64, Bahrain had 54, Qatar had 24, plus 30 others on order and Oman had 21.

In the Saudi tank force several hundred of the armoured vehicles were being modernised, it said. The magazine noted that by contrast Israel had 3,190 tanks. The Jordanian Army was listed as being equipped with 1,006 tanks, Syria's total was not known to the magazine, but was estimated to be between 1,900 and 2,700.

Egypt had 1,800 tanks at present and another 849 on order, Libya had 2,700, excluding the 209 it had lost in Chad and Algeria had a tank force of about 500, the Swiss magazine said.

Kuwait

Austrian President Waldheim Arrives 31 Oct
LD3111215188 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] At 1630 this evening, Dr Kurt Waldheim, president of the Republic of Austria, arrived at Kuwait international airport with his delegation on a state visit to last 3 days. He was received at the airport by his highness the amir, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, the deputy prime minister and foreign ministers, the ministers, the heads of diplomatic missions, and a number of senior officials in the government and the staff of the Austrian Embassy in Kuwait.

His excellency is accompanied by an official delegation, including Dr Alois Mock, deputy prime minister and federal minister for foreign affairs, Dr George Henning, ambassador and the president's special adviser for international affairs, a number of senior officials, an economic delegation, and an information delegation. The guest was escorted by the Minister of Public Works 'Abd al-Rahman al-Huti. At 1800 this evening Dr Waldheim received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahamad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at his excellency's quarters at Al-Salam Palace.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, paid a courtesy visit at 1730 this evening at Al-Salam Palace to His Excellency Dr Alois Mock, the deputy prime minister and the federal minister for foreign affairs of the Federal Republic of Austria.

Iraq's 'Aziz Sends Message to Foreign Minister
LD3110142188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1245 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 31 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah Monday received a message from his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz, delivered by Iraqi charge d'affaires in Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah stated to reporters that the message dealt with the current Iraq-Iran peace negotiations and resumption of these talks today in Geneva. The chief diplomat wished success for the peace negotiations and hoped they would restore security and stability in the region.

Shaykh Sabah also received the Algerian ambassador here Mohamed Kaderi and the Omani ambassador to Kuwait. Bilateral ties and current Arab developments were discussed in the two meetings.

He also received Shaykh Salem al-Hmoud and secretary general of the Arab Cities Organization Abdul 'Aziz al-Adsani.

Burkina Faso Foreign Minister Arrives

LD3010162388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1554 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 30 (KUNA)—Burkina Faso's external affairs minister Jean Marc Palm arrived here tonight on a three-day visit carrying a message from his president Capt. Blaise compaore to h.h. the amir. He was received on arrival by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi and senior ministry officials.

Qatar

Amir Receives Mubarak Message on Arab Issues

JN2910121788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 29 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the results of the meetings held recently in Aqaba and Baghdad to discuss Arab developments and a number of issues that concern the Arab nation. QNA said that the message also deals with the latest efforts to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peaceful solution to the Palestine question—a solution that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people because this issue is the basis for any solution to the Middle East crisis.

Mubarak's message, which comes during continuous consultation and coordination between the amir of Qatar and the Egyptian president, also deals with the situation in Lebanon and the importance of a common Arab action to safeguard the sovereignty and unity of this Arab country and enable it to overcome the present difficult circumstances.

Foreign Affairs Minister Leaves for GGC Meeting

JN0111110088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Doha, 1 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, left Doha for Riyadh this morning to attend the GCC ministerial council's 10th extraordinary session, scheduled to begin proceedings later today at the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat. [passage omitted)

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives With Delegation

JN3110181888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1725 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 31 Oct (WAKH)—Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and inspector general, arrived in Doha this evening.

Heading the delegation receiving Prince Sultan were Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and Qatari minister of defense, and ranking civilian and military Qatari officials.

This visit comes at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet on Diplomat's Killing, Economic Measures

LD3110224088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1840 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Al-Madinah, 31 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a cabinet meeting this afternoon at Al-Taybah Palace in Al-Madinah. Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir gave a statement to SPA:

Under blessed guidance, the cabinet reviewed reports on the latest information and developments in the Arab region in the political, security, and economic fields. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also reviewed the first official information on the assassination of Saudi diplomat 'Abd al-Ghani Badawi, who was surprised by a criminal who shot him dead with treacherous bullets while he was carrying out his duty at the Saudi Embassy in Ankara. He was shot dead while preparing to return home. The cabinet expressed strong condemnation and denunciation of this conspicuous hostile act, responsibility for which was claimed by an organization from a fraternal Arab country—Lebanon.

The cabinet also expressed deep gratitude for the continuing efforts of the Turkish Government, embodied in the investigations and inquiries currently taking place in order to discover who committed the crime and turn him over to justice for punishment.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: In discussing its agenda, the Council of Ministers approved a number of decisions, including:

Proposed strategic objectives and bases for the 1989-93 development plan were attached to a letter submitted by the acting planning minister. The council approved them, concentrating on the following aspects:

1. To continue to consolidate and develop defense, with continuous development of the Kingdom's defense forces and to strengthen loyalty of citizens.

2. To study suitable ways and means to increase the state's revenues provided this does not lead to undesireable social or economic effects or affect the citizens' interests.

3. To concentrate on raising performance efficiency in the government administration in a manner which will lead to reducing government expenditure without affecting the level of services and their availability to citizens.

4. To increase the dependence of the national economy on the activity of the private sector and its available opportunities by way of:

a: Encouraging investors nationwide to participate in national investment.

b: Laying down a system and bases for financing some development programs and projects through private companies and establishments under the state's supervision and guarantee.

5. To increase concentration on the realization of balanced development among the various regions of the Kingdom—linking this to the population's needs—and to fully benefit from the available utilities and services by selecting centers for growth which halt the waste and dispersal of services and revenues.

6. To find appropriate means to make the private sector provide opportunities for work for citizens.

7. To take the necessary means to replace non-Saudi manpower with Saudi manpower.

King Fahd Receives Pakistan's Yaqub Khan

LD3110210688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1832 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Al-Madinah, 31 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his Tabah Palace office this evening, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. The custodian of the two holy mosques—may God make him victorious—stressed that the Saudi Arabian Government and people strive for the safety and security of Pakistan, and that "the Kingdom also supports the march of the Pakistani people toward the realization of the implementation of the pure Islamic shari'a." The Kingdom hails Pakistan's continuous popular and governmental support for the Afghan mujahidin in their legitimate struggle, and the Kingdom will stand by its brothers in obtaining their rights. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani foreign minister left Al-Madinah this evening following his meeting with King Fahd ibn Abd 'al-'Aziz, custodian of two holy mosques—may God protect him. He was seen off at Al-Madinah airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, and a number of officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

London Paper Cites Al-Iryani on Unity, Ties

PM3110155688 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Oct 88 pp 36,37, 39

[Interview with 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: Is progress in unity work between Sanaa and Aden—represented by the agreement on the common area—the result of U.S.-Soviet accord?

Al-Iryani: No. It is very far from this concept. Because Yemeni unity action has continued and developed since the independence of the southern part. It has to do with the relationship of Arabism. As for recent developments, they occurred over a period of 1-2 years. Unity action is 25 years old. None of the unity agreements between the two parts is linked to any international detente between the United States and the Soviet Union or others.

AL-HAWADITH: Has U.S. interest in Yemen increased since the discovery of oil?

Al-Iryani: All states tend to consider developing their economic relations with any state that discovers new economic resources. For instance, relations with Yemen are now more developed than they were before oil was discovered in it. This is proven by the fact that some U.S. companies are now maintaining economic relations with Yemen in order to exploit Yemeni natural resources. This is a natural thing for the United States—which is more interested—to do. It is also a natural thing for France, for instance, to do, if interested. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It seems that there is East-West competition over the new resources: There is a Soviet company in the south and a U.S. company—Hunt—in the north. Is there any possibility of U.S.-Soviet cooperation in these areas?

Al-Iryani: As you know, we in Sanaa have no problem. The brothers in the southern part of the homeland have no diplomatic relations with the United States. The question can be addressed to them on the establishment of U.S.-Soviet cooperation to exploit the common area. As for us, we maintain good relations with both sides. We in the North have no objection.

AL-HAWADITH: As your relations with the United States are good and you are continuing unionist steps with the southern part, have you raised this idea with the south? And have you encouraged the south to resume relations with the United States?

Al-Iryani: The southern part does not need encouragement from anyone to establish diplomatic relations with the United States. There is an aware and wise leadership, which must believe that it is not in the interest of the southern part to have diplomatic relations with the United States. And this issue does not worry or affect us. It concerns the southern part's relations with another state. In this case, the decision must have been carefully weighed. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: You held elections in the north recently. And you maintain that you are following the path of democracy. Where is party pluralism?

Al-Iryani: First of all, party pluralism and the establishment of parties are completely forbidden under the Constitution.

AL-HAWADITH: But does this not conflict with democracy?

AL-Iryani: Democracy does not necessarily entail a precise transfer from Britain to a society that has just begun to implement a step which Britain embarked on 400 years ago. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Meets With Perez de Cuellar 31 Oct

JN3110174488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1704 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, in Geneva at 1510 Baghdad time. Tariq 'Aziz arrived at Entrance No 4 of the Palais des Nations in Geneva at 1500 Baghdad time. He was received by Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's representative, who escorted 'Aziz to the upper floor to meet with Perez de Cuellar, who received 'Aziz at the entrance of the meeting room. The UN Information Department allowed press and television cameramen in Geneva to enter the meeting room for 1 minute to take pictures. Tariq 'Aziz and Perez de Cuellar sat opposite one another at the center of a rectangular table, surrounded by members of the two delegations. The meeting was attended by four members of the Iraqi delegation and all seven members of the UN delegation.

Therese Gastaut, official in charge of the UN Information Office, said that the first expanded session of direct Iraq-Iran negotiations, led by the foreign ministers of the two countries, will be held at the European headquarters in Geneva tomorrow, Tuesday. In a statement to journalists in Geneva today, she said UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met at noon today with Cornelio Sommaruga, head of the ICRC. They discussed issues related to the POW's of the Iraq-Iran war. She added this meeting was also part of the special arrangements to hold the first session of direct Iraq-Iran negotiations. However, she declined to give further details on this issue. Mrs Gastaut said that as part of other preparations for this round of negotiations, the UN secretary general today held an expanded meeting with his assistants and members of the UN delegation to the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

Calls Meeting 'Constructive'

JN3110181688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Geneva, 31 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, at 1610 Geneva time. [passage omitted] The 90-minute meeting ended at 1740 Geneva time. In a brief statement to journalists who gathered opposite Entrance No 4, Tariq 'Aziz described his meeting with Perez de Cuellar as constructive and important. He said an expanded session of direct negotiations will resume tomorrow. The Iraqi delegation came to the third round with good intentions, as was the case in the two previous rounds. It also places itself at the disposal of the UN secretary general, he said. The foreign minister added: It is up to the other party to present similar stands to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

Stockholm Paper Interviews Kurds' Talabani

PM3110102688 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 17 Oct 88 p10

[Undated report on interview with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani by Lars Bostrom: "Now We Are Building Up a Regular Army"]

[Text] Kurdish resistance in northern Iraq has not been crushed. Despite 2 months of an intense Iraqi offensive, with constant reports of chemical warfare, the guerrillas' struggle against the Baghdad government is continuing. But it is a struggle on new terms and with new tactics, Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani stresses. "Baghdad's offensive has driven our people into flight, but when the Iraqis claim that we have been conquered militarily they are lying," said Talabani, who is paying a brief visit to Sweden. In the last few months he has been traveling through the West to seek support for the Kurds' cause. He has maintained contact with the home front by telephone, through Iran.

The cease-fire between Iran and Iraq changed the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan at a stroke. Suddenly the full force of the Iraqi war machine could be turned against the "treacherous Kurds" who had collaborated with Iran. The civilian population fled and the guerrillas were pushed back from the "liberated areas." Kurdish reports of Iraqi gas warfare were only given half-hearted denial in Baghdad. According to Talabani, there are still active guerrilla units in "all provinces of Kurdistan," but the difficult situation has forced the Kurds onto the defensive. Rapid "hit-and-run attacks" are what the guerrillas are able to carry out in the present situation.

But a restructuring of the Kurdish resistance is under way, according to Talabani. The idea is that all Iraqi peshmergas (guerrilla soldiers) will be collected in a common military arm, under the name of the Kurdish Revolutionary Army. This change, which is to be completed by next spring, is military and does not affect the Kurdish parties' political stances. "It will be a more regular army," Talabani said. "The soldiers will be trained so that we can use all the weapons we acquire as spoils. Hitherto we have been forced to destroy the more complicated weapons because we could not use them—tanks and antiaircraft missiles, for example."

Jalal Talabani is the leader of the socialist Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], which together with Massud Barzani's KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) is the dominant political force in Iraqi Kurdistan. Before the Iraqi offensive radically altered the situation, the PUK and KDP together controlled one-third of Iraqi Kurdistan.

"Today there remain only isolated islands of the liberated areas," Talabani said. "The infrastructure of a whole area of the country has been razed to the ground. Hospitals, schools, and mosques have been destroyed and whole villages are deserted." Large sections of the Kurdish population have either been forcibly moved or forced to flee.

For several years the government in Baghdad has been striving to eliminate all Kurds from the strategically important Kurdistan, a process that has intensified since the ceasefire with Iran. In August over 60,000 Kurds fled across the border to Turkey. Some 30,000 are said to have fled to Iran in the last 2 months.

"Since the beginning of 1987 Iraq has made routine use of chemical weapons against both civilians and guerrillas," Talabani said. Asked how many had been killed, he replied, "Thousands," referring to a current investigation. The Iraqi offensive is a major blow against the Kurds. But Talabani does not agree with the observers who claim that peace, or the absence of war, between Iran and Iraq must necessarily result in a Kurdish collapse. He thinks that it is wrong to compare today's situation with events in 1975 when the Kurdish opposition collapsed after Iran's settlement with Baghdad over the Shatt al-Arab waterway. Then as now Iraqi forces were freed from the Iranian front and could be used against the Kurds. According to Talabani, there are at least three important differences between 1975 and 1988:

Today the Kurdish leadership has decided to continue the fight. In 1975 the fighting was called off after the shah's treachery. Today there is no final agreement between Iran and Iraq. The suspicion between the two countries is great and neither dares break with its allies—"they might be needed in the future." Iraq's Kurds still have a refuge in Iran. The Kurdish struggle has attracted international attention as never before, partly because of Iraq's gas warfare, above all the attack on Halabjah this spring when several thousand civilians were killed by cyanide and mustard gas.

"The Kurds have more friends now than they did in 1975," Talabani said. One of these newfound "friends" is the United States, which has condemned Iraq's chemical warfare more forcefully than any other country. A recent U.S. report on the Kurdish refugees in Turkey claims unambiguously that Iraq used chemical weapons against the Kurds and the Senate has advocated sanctions against Baghdad. Despite the precarious situation Talabani claims that he is full of confidence. The goal is still an independent Kurdistan within the framework of a democratic Iraq. He said that he is aware that the Baghdad regime cannot be conquered militarily means, nor is this necessary. "The United States never suffered military defeat in Vietnam, but it was nevertheless forced to leave the country," he stressed. The Kurdish strategy of exploiting regional conflicts and allying themselves with "your enemy's enemy" has been criticized inmany circles. The result is always, the critics say, that the Kurds sooner or later find themselves facing a powerful and vengeful enemy. Talabani thinks that these critics have not paid sufficient attention to Kurdistan's geopolitical situation with a population divided between five nations. In his view it is good tactics to exploit regional conflicts. And Talabani and the Kurds have learned to live with the sudden changes in Middle Eastern politics. "There are positive and negative elements in every change. We exploit the positive elements and combat the negative," he said.

Talabani on 'Genocide'

PM0111080888 Paris LIBERATION in French 25 Oct 88 p 21

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Diego Solanas in Paris—date not given]

[Text] LIBERATION: What is the purpose of your visit to Europe?

Jalal Talabani: The Iraqi Army is still waging a veritable war of genocide against the Kurds. We have counted 5,000 Kurdish villages and 22 small cities which have been totally destroyed. The deportation of the Kurdish population to south and southwest Iraq is continuing. Our delegation has come to explain this situation to Western public opinion. We are also going to ask the United Nations and the EC for the Kurdish question to be included in the settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

LIBERATION: Has the use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish population stopped?

Jalal Talabani: The Iraqi Army has not stopped using chemical weapons against us. I can give you two recent examples. On 11 October, three Iraqi Air Force Mirage planes bombed the village of Shaykh Bizini, 30 km north of Kirkuk, with chemical weapons. On 14 October, it was the turn of Shami Razan in the district of Al-Sulaymaniyah. These two attacks killed 11 and 27 people respectively and a total of 141 people were injured.

LIBERATION: France has close ties with the ruling regime in Baghdad. What do you expect from your visit to Paris?

Jalal Talabani: All these massacres are continuing amid indifference from the superpowers. Some of them, like the USSR and France, bear special responsibility by supplying arms to the Iraqi regime. French-made planes are bombing our villages and there is reason to ask whether French military advisers are helping the Iraqi pilots in this task. I would also like to say that French Defense Minister Chevenement's attitude is particularly-scandalous. By stating, like all the Iraqi officials, that there is no proof of chemical weapons being used, he is merely indirectly encouraging the use of those weapons. I am shocked that such an attitude has been adopted by a PSF member—a party which condemned Iraq for the use of chemical weapons. President Mitterrand also did that. We expect France to adopt an attitude consistent with its humanitarian positions.

LIBERATION: For more than 1 year, your party has moved closer to Iran. How are your relations with the Islamic Republic?

Jalal Talabani: We are primarily an independent national liberation movement whose strength lies in its supporters. But we are alone, whereas the Iraqi Government is pursuing an extermination policy against us.

That is why we have moved closer to Iran, although we are constantly being careful not to become a tool in the Islamic Republic's hands.

LIBERATION: Are you not afraid that the conflict between Iran and Iraq will be settled at the Kurds' expense?

Jalal Talabani: With the establishment of the cease-fire with Iran, the Iraqi Army was able to step up its military pressure against us. But this is only one aspect of the problem. Iraq has been greatly weakened by this interminable war, and the country is experiencing an unprecedented economic crisis. After 20 years of dictatorship, the Iraqis are standing up and demanding more democracy: This is true of the Kurds but also the Iraqi opposition groups and the southern Shi'ites. If the government is obstinate, it will be faced with another war—a civil war this time.

Joint Meetings With Hungarian Delegation Begin

JN2910123488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 29 Oct 99

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—The meetings of the joint Iraqi-Hungarian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation began here today. The meetings will last 2 days. The Iraqi side to the meetings is led by Planning Minister Samal Majid while the Hungarian side is led by Laszlo Somogyi, minister of construction and urban development, who arrived here yesterday at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days. The planning minister earlier today discussed with the Hungarian minister ways to develop bilateral economic and trade relations.

Ramadan, Hungary's Somogyi Talk

JN3010173388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received Laszlo Somogyi, Hungarian minister of construction and urban development and head of the Hungarian side to the joint Iraqi-Hungarian committee, who is currently visiting Iraq to attend the opening of the 25th Baghdad International Fair the day after tomorrow, Tuesday.

During the meeting, they reviewed the results of the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Hungarian committee and also expressed satisfaction with the level of relations between the two countries. Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed Iraq's economy and future prospects, stressing that Iraq will experience large-scale development through the implementation of ambitious and comprehensive development plans.

The Hungarian official also stressed the Hungarian institutions' readiness and eagerness to increase cooperation with Iraq in trade, economic, and scientific areas.

GDR Minister Talks With Industry Minister

JN3110144088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1317 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Oct (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, today met with Gerhard Tautenhahn, GDR minister of construction of general machinery, agricultural machinery, and vehicles. During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote industrial cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of engineering industries and training of technical cadres.

Meets With Ramadan

JN3110183488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Tautenhahn, GDR minister of construction of general machinery, agricultural machinery, and vehicles, and the accompanying delegation currently visiting Iraq to participate in the 25th Baghdad international fair. The GDR minister voiced his country's desire to expand economic, trade, and scientific relations with Iraq. The meeting was attended by the GDR ambassador in Baghdad.

INA Reports Arrival of Irish UN Observers

JN3010192288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Thirty-seven Irish military men arrived in Baghdad this afternoon to join the UN observers who are supervising the cease-fire betweenIraq and Iran. The cease-fire has been in effect since 20 August. The number of UN observers operating in Iraq is now 520.

SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Observers Group, left Baghdad for Tehran last Wednesday as part of his shuttle tour between the two capitals.

Ramadan Receives Philippine Message for Saddam

JN3110162588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received a written message addressed to President leader Saddam Husayn fromPhilippine President Mrs Corazon Aquino dealing with bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

Philippine Labor and Employment Secretary Franklin Drilon delivered the message to the first deputy prime minister when the latter received him today. They discussed ways to promote industrial, trade, and services relations between the two countries. Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed Iraq's desire to promote and enhance its trade and economic relations with world states to conform with the tangible development in Iraqi economy. Attending the meeting were Housing and Reconstruction Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun and the Philippine ambassador in Baghdad.

'Terrorist Targets' Attacked in South Lebanon
TA0111104188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] At noon today, Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets in South Lebanon. All our planes returned safely to base. The targets were destroyed. The attacked targets were in the area of Sidon and Al-Damur, and included terrorist headquarters and weapon arsenals. Foreign news agencies reported in the past hour that the attacked targets in the area of Sidon belong to Yasir 'Arafat and those in the Al-Damur area to pro-Syrian militias.

More 'Terrorist' Squads Uncovered in Jericho Area
TA3110201588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Additional terrorist squads, which also hurled firebombs, were uncovered in the Jericho area. The detained suspects admitted perpetrating the actions. Four houses belonging to members of the squads in Jericho and in the village of (Udruh) in the Jericho district were demolished tonight. The IDF tonight prevented some 100 Israelis from entering Jericho and praying there. They arrived in two buses and wanted to hold a mass prayer at the site where the firebomb was hurled last night.

Houses of Jericho Attack Group Demolished
TA3110142188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The security forces demolished three homes belonging to the terrorists involved in last night's attack near Jericho. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that two of the houses belong to members of the band arrested yesterday after the attack, while the third belongs to somebody detained only a short time ago. Brigadier General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, said the perpetrators did not belong to any organization. The attack was a local initiative. The perpetrators had been detained in the past for similar attacks. An investigation showed that the perpetrators left a card game to carry out the bloody attack.

Shamir Favors Death Penalty for 'Terrorists'
TA3110173688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin proposes to examine the possibility of imposing the death penalty on the Jericho attack perpetrators. He has approached Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, on this issue. Rabin was acting in the framework of the new policy on penalties meted to terrorists guilty of inhuman acts of murder against women and children. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir approves of Rabin's appeal to the military advocate general. In principle, I am in favor of a death penalty, said the prime minister, adding: We are not happy about it, but had this happened in the United States, executions would have taken place. The prime minister spoke to our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel after a visit to the Likud election headquarters.

Peres 'Considering' Death Penalty for 'Terrorists'
TA0111063188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres is considering whether the death sentence should be imposed on the terrorists who attacked the passenger bus near Jericho on Sunday night. Earlier, Defense Minister Rabin had said that he was in favor of applying death sentences in such cases of terrorist attacks of indiscriminate murder against civilians. Our correspondent says Peres told interviewers that in principle he was against death sentences, but in this terrible case ways should be studied to impose the maximum sentence on the attackers. He said he would await the outcome of the study being conducted by the defense minister. Peres added that Israel must fight terrorism with the utmost stringency, while continuing to search for a political solution to the conflict.

PLO Condemnation of Attack Called 'Hypocrisy'
TA0111063788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, has said that the PLO's condemnation of the Jericho attack is meaningless. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Ben-Aharon mentioned the fact that at the beginning of this week, the PLO published a leaflet containing a call to escalate the struggle and set the earth on which Israel rests ablaze; therefore, the condemnation voiced by the PLO and the PLO-oriented notables in the territories is nothing but hypocrisy.

According to the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, the attack near Jericho should not be attributed to any political initiative, but solely to the PLO. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said yesterday that the attack on the bus near Jericho was the product of local initiative and that the perpetrators are not members of any terrorist organization.

Mubarak Expresses 'Sorrow' Over Bus Attack
TA3110200588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Before we conclude there is another announcement denouncing the attack last night on the bus in Jericho. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expresses his sorrow over the escalation of violence which he believes harms the interests of peace. President Mubarak expressed his views in a cable he sent tonight to President Hayim Herzog. The Egyptian president calls for abandoning violence and adopting the path of negotiations in order to find a way for a durable peace. In his cable he stressed that he sent a similar message to all involved parties.

Arab Notables Give Condemnation of Attack

TA3110173488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] A group of notables from the territories has condemned yesterday's attack on innocent civilians, pointing out similar attacks perpetrated by both sides. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the statement was signed by, among others, AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah, Gaza attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Bi'r Zayt University President Jabi Baramaki, former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah, and journalists Ziyad Abu Ziyad and Da'ud Kutab. The statement said that the mutual attacks indicate the urgent need for a just peace based on the two nations' right for self-determination and for a state of their own.

Polls Open; Territories Closed to Traffic

TA0111055388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Most of the 4,840 polls for the 12th Knesset elections have opened. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that 120 polls where Kakh representatives serve on the balloting committees will open in 30 minutes. Yesterday, the Central Elections Committees decided to replace them with representatives of other parties, after Kakh announced that its representatives will boycott the balloting committees in protest over the disqualification of their party. Some 660 polls in small settlements will open in 1 hour. The voting will end at 2200. Voting in small settlements will end at 2000.

There are 2,890,000 eligible voters. The Elections Committee foresees a relatively high turnout. A total of 27 parties will run in today's elections, including 11 parties which were represented in the 11th Knesset. Five sets of parties made surplus vote agreements to avoid loss of votes. Some 18 informations centers with 220 telephone lines will stand at the voters' disposal. The territories have been closed since last night, and the residents may not cross the Green Line. The territories will reopen to traffic on Wednesday night.

Pollsters: Bus Attack, Weather Favor Right Wing

TA0111085888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Dan Petreanu, Mikhal Yudelman, and David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Sunday's tragic petrol bomb attack is one of several factors that could work to the advantage of the right in today's elections, pollsters say. The Continuing Survey's Prof Elihu Katz told THE JERUSALEM POST that "tragic events such as this and last week's bomb in the north, and crises such as the intifada [uprising] in general, could cause some people who otherwise might not have voted to go to the polls to register their outrage."

Katz said that this group could comprise those who were undecided between right-wing parties and might not have voted, as well as those who initially stated they would not vote. The latter, comprising some 5 per cent of the population, harbour largely right-wing opinions, he said. "Experience shows that whenever there is an attack it works in favour of parties on the right," said PORI research director Refa'el Gil. "Those who have decided already become more entrenched in their opinions, and others—who were on the borderline—move to the right."

Dahaf's Dr. Mina Tzemah agreed that "incidents like this tend to help the right," but added that "at this point it is impossible to tell what the effect would be."

Katz added that the good weather expected today could also favour the right. A general feeling of wellbeing is an important factor in persuading the less interested citizen to vote, he said. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 1 November reports that today's weather is "fair and mild."]

One factor that might benefit the left is the fact that this is the first general election since 1977 which is not taking place at the height of the travel season, when tens of thousands of Israelis are out of the country. The presence of these "better educated, more cosmopolitan" voters "who prefer Greater Europe to Greater Israel" will probably help the left, says Katz. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows 'Slight Edge' for Alignment

TA0111100088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Nov 88 p 1

[Report on a poll by Hanokh and Refa'el Smith]

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted on Thursday, 27 October, and Sunday, 30 October, shows a slight edge for the Alignment over the Likud and an advantage to the left-wing bloc over the right-wing bloc, with the inclusion of the religious and Arab votes. Had the entire religious bloc joined the right, it would have had an advantage over the left-wing bloc even with the Arab vote.

The Smith Institute polled some 1,350 adults over the age of 18 as a representative sample of the entire Israeli population—including the moshavim; the kibbutzim; settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; and the Arab sector. The poll was conducted for DAVAR and HADASHOT. Among the Jewish voters, the Likud has a slight edge over the Alignment. With the inclusion of the Arab votes, however, the Alignment takes a slight lead.

The results, including the Arab votes, are as follows: the left-wing bloc—41 percent; the right-wing bloc—39 percent; the religious parties—10 percent; the Arab parties—7 percent. Other lists account for 2 percent, although their place in the Knesset is not secure.

In contrast to polls published over the past few months, the religious parties have grown stronger. Four lists are struggling to meet the minimum quota: Memad, Degel Hatora, Moledet, and Darawshah [Arab Democratic Party]. If they do not cross that barrier, the picture may change somewhat. At the time the poll was conducted, some 3.5 percent said that they had not yet decided how to vote. It is worth noting that the data presented here does not take into account the different surplus vote agreements and the Bader-'Ofer law [according to which extra seats are distributed to the lists with the highest average vote per seat].

The question presented was: "Which party would you vote for were the elections held today?" Following are the results [in percentages]:

Party	Jews	Total: including Arabs, undecided	Knesset seats
Alignment	32 plus	31 plus	41
Citizens Rights Movement	5.5	5.5	6
MAPAM	2.5	2.5	3
Center-Shinuy	1 plus	1 plus	1
Memad	1	1	1
Likud	33	31	40-41
Tehiya	6	5.5	6
Tzomet	2.5	2 plus	2
Moledet	1	1	1
National Religious Party	4	3.5	4
Shas [Torah Observing Sepharadim]	4.5	4	5
Agudat Yisra'el and Degel Hatora	3	2.5	3
Small parties	1.5	2	-
Rakah [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]	-	4	5
Progressive List for Peace and Darawshah	-	3	2
Undecided	3.5	-	-

Husayn on Terms for 'Public' Meeting With Peres

TA0111082488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Nov 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has delivered a message to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which he wishes Peres victory in the elections. In the message, delivered to Jerusalem by a special courier, Husayn says that he is willing to meet Peres in public if he wins the elections and if his government has a majority for the implementation of his peace plan.

2 Officers, Soldier Guilty of Harassing Arabs

TA3110193088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] A battalion commander, a deputy battalion commander, and a petty officer 2d class, will face disciplinary action for irregular behavior and for harassment of Arab residents. The petty officer will be immediately transferred from his post.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a fact-finding committee set up by the IDF after a complaint by Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker and press reports found that the battalion commander had disobeyed standing orders by not stopping irregular behavior by his subordinates toward civilians. The deputy battalion commander acted wrongly when he ordered detained Arabs to be taken to a citrus grove where they were stripped and beaten. The petty officer participated in the beatings and had his dog attack them.

The findings were transferred to the military advocate general and were approved by the chief of staff. Our correspondent points out that the commander of the Central Command will take steps to make certain that Arabs in his region are not humiliated and harassed.

Incidents in Territories, Arab Sectors in North

Bus Attacked; No Casualties

TA3110203688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Steel bars and balls were thrown at an Israeli bus near Ramallah travelling to Elon More. They penetrated the bus, but no one was hurt. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that most of the passengers on the bus were returning from the funeral of Rachel Weiss and her children [the people killed in the Jericho firebomb attack on 30 October].

'Disturbances' in North

TA0111091588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT1 Nov 88

[Text] Last night and this morning several disturbances occurred in the Arab sector in the north. PLO flags were hoisted in two Wadi 'Ara villages. The car of a senior Interior Ministry official was set on fire in Nazareth. This was reported by our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz.

This report just in: An IDF soldier was slightly injured in the face when a stone was thrown at his car near Bet Rimon [in the Nazareth district]. The stone thrower was apprehended. As said, the soldier sustained a slight injury.

3 Wounded in Firebomb Attack

TA0111113388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Three casualties, wounded in today's incident in which a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car in the Wadi al-Jawz neighborhood [in East Jerusalem], have been brought to Shaare Zedek Hospital. One of them, a woman, sustained second and third degree burns, and two youths were slightly injured in the face and neck. Some 30 suspects have been detained so far.

W. Bank Tourist Sites Reopen

TA0111112888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The Ministry of Defense has opened up all the tourist sites in Judaea and Samaria, despite the decision to close the territories for 2 days—this at the request of Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir. The Jordan bridges will reopen tomorrow morning. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 1 November adds: "A general strike is in effect in several towns in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the military government imposed a curfew on all Gaza Strip refugee camps."]

Al-Rifa‘i: Economic Measures ‘Only Solution’

JN2710133588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27-28 Oct 88 p 1

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—The economic measures adopted by the government in recent months and the latest adjustments in the exchange rates of the Jordanian dinar are part of a package aimed at improving the economic situation in the country and helping the citizens, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa‘i said Wednesday. In a meeting with ministers and senior officials from various departments and organisations, the prime minister made a comprehensive review of events related to the national economy in the last 10 years and said the latest measures were "the only solution" to correct the situation. Al-Rifa‘i dismissed as unfounded rumours that there was a decline in remittances by Jordanian expatriates and said the total of such remittances last year was JD [Jordanian dinars] 317 million and that government was expecting JD 334 million in 1988.

The prime minister also noted that Jordanian exports were worth JD 315 million in 1987 and are expected to rise to JD 326 million this year, and that tourism revenues amounted to JD 196 million in 1987 and are expected at more than JD 200 million in 1988. In the context of tourism, the prime minister said every visitor to Jordan was considered a tourist. Al-Rifa‘i said the government collected about JD 260 million as port and aviation revenues and other services and noted that these sources had become better than in previous years.

"There are other elements which we are unable to do anything about," the prime minister said. "The annual Arab aid, which was promised to Jordan at the Baghdad summit, was $1,250 million. We received this amount only for one year. Since then, some of the donors did not pay at all and some others delayed or reduced their contribution." Had Jordan received the full commitment of Arab aid, the prime minister said, the Kingdom would not have faced the present situation. "We can control some of our payments while some are beyond our control," he said. He cited debt-servicing payments and meeting oil import bills as beyond Jordan's control. He also mentioned pension payment for retired government employees as another sector where nothing could be done. He estimated that Jordan needs JD 325 million in 1989 to meet debt-servicing and pension payments.

But, Al-Rifa‘i noted, Jordan still enjoyed very good credibility rating in the international scene because the Kingdom is up-to-date in its debt repayments and servicing. Jordan pays an average of JD 300 million as interest on foreign loans, he said. "We cannot reduce our oil imports at this stage," he said. "But we can control other imports." In 1987, he said, Jordan imports goods worth JD 912 million—three-fold of Jordan's total exports—three-fold of Jordan's total exports—thus causing a balance of trade problem, he said. "Another sector we can control is outflow of money in the form of expenditures by Jordanians travelling abroad—for education, work, tourism etc," he said. "An amount of JD 150 million was paid by Jordanians for these purposes last year," he said. "It was only slightly less than what we received (JD 196 million) in tourism revenue last year," he noted.

Another area that could be controlled is transfers by foreigners working in Jordan who accounted for $62 million in outward remittances in 1987, he said. There are about 200,000 foreigners working in Jordan, he said. The present difficult economic situation in the country is not a short-term development, Al-Rifa‘i said, noting that Jordan had borrowed from outside for development projects as well as defence and security purposes in addition to pay for debt servicing in the last decade. The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the concerned ministries made a thorough study of the economic developments in the country in the last 10 years and concluded that Jordan will have only $900 million as foreign debt in another five to six years. He cited figures from 1978 when Jordan was able to pay only $19 million of the $500 million it owed and pointed out that the Kingdom borrowed $480 million in 1987 while repaying $688 million. He also said that today the government was able to pay for its current expenditure from its own revenues while it was able to cover only 58.5 per cent in 1979.

Arab aid to Jordan was equal to 52.7 per cent of the Kingdom's import bills in 1979 while it accounted for only 18.9 per cent in 1988, Al-Rifa‘i said. Explaining the recent adjustment in the exchange value of the dinar, Al-Rifa‘i said that the government had drawn from CBJ [Central Bank of Jordan] reserves to pay its foreign debts, thus causing a shortage of foreign currency reserves. "We strove hard to keep the price of the dollar at 380 fils but could not do so because of the low reserves, and the only solution was the adjustment of the rate."

Al-Rifa‘i pointed out that the adjustment in the exchange rate was beneficial on several counts, including increased Jordanian exports and reduced consumption of imported products. He also noted that reduced earning would result in reduced foreign workers in the country. Al-Rifa‘i said that Jordan would not be borrowing from the outside for any new development project. "We will complete the projects currently under implementation," he said.

The prime minister said the private sector was not assuming its full role in the country's economic efforts and that the sector's share in development was only three per cent. The government, he said, is adopting a strict policy of curbing expenditure and reducing consumption, including water, electricity, transportation and travel within and outside the country of officials, furniture, etc. Other envisaged measures include curbs on imports of certain goods to encourage local industry owned by the private sector, investment incentives and privatisation of some government owned organisations, Al-Rifa'i said.

Gulf States To Provide $200 Million in Aid

JN2910115088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27-28 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Al-SIYASAH has learned from high-level financial sources in the Gulf that a number of Gulf states have recently decided to provide about $200 million in joint aid for Jordan to support its balance of payment, which has been witnessing deficits for a number of years.

Bank Official Interviewed on Dinar, Economy

JN2910095688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Oct 88 p 21

[Interview with Dr Mahir Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), by Muhammad Amin in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Amin] How do you assess the outcome of the recent measures by the CBJ? What are the expected short and medium term results? To what extent has the banking system responded to these measures? What is the level at which you expect the dollar exchange rate to be stable?

[Shukri] What we expected to happen has actually happened. We expected that the announcement of the measures would cause the market to become unstable until it balances itself at certain rates. At the beginning of the stage of flexibility in determining prices, the CBJ chose a realistic exchange rate for the dollar. Despite fluctuations, the rate revolved around this rate; namely 420-430 fils for the dollar. The money exchange market has now returned to its normal calm, with margins between the purchasing price and the selling price reducing. At the peak of the speculation fever, which immediately followed the recent measures, this margin soared to 20 fils per dollar. This was very high, but it was imposed by the nature of the market, because speculation causes the market to be unstable and, consequently, margins widen. These margins have now decreased, varying between 5-10 fils. They are closer to 5 fils, which is natural in the moneychangers market. This indicates that supply runs parallel with demand or a little higher because the price indicator is pointing toward reduction. [passage omitted]

Those who keep dollars, especially the unspecialized, may incur losses if they retain their dollars in their hands. They base their decision to keep dollars on certain counts, and will definitely decide to sell their dollars on certain counts, mainly confidence in the national economy and future price inclinations. We believe that in the intermediate run, the dollar will continue to decline against the dinar. Its rate may drop to 400 fils or even 390 fils. Regrettably, the public buys when the rate goes up, and sells when the rate goes down. Some people bought the Iraqi dinar for 550 fils and are now selling it for 300 fils. Some bought Lebanese pounds when the rate was 350 pounds for the dollar, and are now selling them 520 pounds for the dollar.

The best decision to keep one's money is investment in shares and bonds, or any other kind of investment in Jordan. We expect the dollar exchange rate to remain around the CBJ rate, and the rate in the money exchange market to come closer to the CBJ rate. It may remain a little higher due to the nature of business in the money exchange market. If the difference is 10-20 fils, then it is reasonable and there is no problem. We hope, however, that this difference will disappear in the future. [passage omitted]

[Amin] What is the pricing mechanism which you currently follow in determining the daily rates of foreign currencies?

[Shukri] The mechanism can be summed up in studying what comes into banks of drafts by workers abroad, export revenues, and any income in foreign currency, and balancing these figures with the payments made by these banks and their immediate obligations—not future obligations such as letters of credit. Many people have said that the CBJ had announced that it will adopt a flexible pricing policy and will interfere, but it is not interfering. The fact is that we do interfere in the market, and I think the market would not have settled had the CBJ not interfered. The interference of the CBJ at this stage is different than its interference in the past. In the past, the interference of the CBJ was a result of covering letters of credit. For example: A bank received policies of letters of credit. It makes a procurement order, and the CBJ does the selling. This was interference made on the basis of an abundance in foreign currencies. The CBJ and the other banks were in a position that allowed them to do so.

After studying the situation and analyzing the balance of payment of the private and public sectors—the balance of payment was divided between the two sectors—we found that since 1973 the private sector had continuous surplus from the export revenues, expatriates' remittances, investments, deposits of residents and non-residents, and tourism income. This surplus was sufficient to meet the needs of the private sector for imports, treatment, health, and travel. After all this expenditure, the surplus remains 1 or 2 million [currency not specified].

This situation calls for the CBJ's optimism because the private sector can easily cover its needs. However, the private sector faces deficit and scarcity particularly as a result of the cut in the official Arab aid and the sources can no longer cover the needs. By this process, we have protected the private sector from any scarcity in foreign currency so that it can manage its own affairs. This affirms that there is no need for any fear or anxiety that the situation will deteriorate. On the contrary, the outcome of the recent measures will increase the revenues of the private sector from the dinar and will enable the private sector to increase its surplus in foreign currencies to support the public sector and help the country as a whole pass the current stage.

I am very optimistic about the coming stage. I believe that the banks also will play a role. If we find that this pricing policy is successful, we will further liberalize the instructions on foreign currency control in the future.

[Amin] Are there other measures to follow the current ones? What is their nature? Will there be restrictions on transferring foreign currency from the country with regard to foreign and Arab workers?

[Shukri] There are no more measures. We believe that the economy now needs a sufficient amount of time to comprehend the results of these measures and investment and to balance between spending and income. This needs a period of time. We expect every citizen to feel the results of these measures in the near future. Regarding Arab and foreign workers, there is no tendency to reduce the ceiling of their remittances. We expect that less foreign workers will come to Jordan. The measures of the CBJ will make the market decide. The citizen will find that working outside is more useful and the Arab and foreign workers will also find that working outside Jordan has become more useful to them. [passage omitted]

[Amin] How much can the Jordanian citizen transfer in foreign currency annually for legitimate purposes?

[Shukri] The citizen can transfer 5,000 dinars. The citizen can transfer up to 1,000 dinars directly from the commercial banks. But, if he wants to transfer more than this amount—up to 5,000 dinars—he needs an approval from the CBJ. [passage omitted]

[Amin] What is the rate of the Jordanian dinar devaluation since last June?

[Shukri] So far, the Jordanian dinar has declined by approximately 12-14 per cent. When we first applied the CBJ measures and fixed the rate at 420 fils for 1 dollar in exchange for 380 fils the previous day the devaluation in the dinar reached 10 per cent. If we look at the buying rate which moved from 377 fils to 422 fils the devaluation in the dinar will be 12 per cent. After applying the measures, the dinar declined by 1.5 per cent on the 1st day and 1.8 per cent the second day. It then became 1.5 per cent. Thus, the overall devaluation was 14 per cent. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR Views Interview

JN2910110488 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Oct 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Additional Explanations of Our Monetary Policy"]

[Text] The lengthy and frank statement by Dr Mahir Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], which AL-DUSTUR publishes exclusively today, adds elaborate explanations of the recent monetary policy. It explains in detail the measures taken in the local money exchange market, in a way that restores many things to their right positions, and ends, all at once, all fears and tendentious rumors that have been circulating over the past few weeks. After the agitation that followed a certain degree of flexibility on the dinar's rate, the market in recent days has returned to normal calm, with foreign currencies' exchange rates dropping, differences between the rate of the CBJ and the money exchange market reducing, and margins between selling and buying rates narrowing.

Hence the CBJ's optimism—based on an objective reading of the situation—that the rate of the U.S. dollar, and other foreign currencies, will, in the intermediate run, witness increasing decline, until the dollar rate reaches 400 fils, a fair and realistic rate against the dinar. The CBJ did not forget to commend the Jordanian banking apparatus for its response to the recent measures. This apparatus has shown wonderful cooperation with the new measures. The commercial banks stopped opening random letters of credit, especially during the agitation period. This helped calm the situation and get foreign currencies' rates back on course.

While the deputy governor stressed that the monetary authority does not plan to adopt further monetary measures, he clearly explained that the national economy needs time for the results of the recent measures to be absorbed and positively digested. The CBJ deputy governor's statement to AL-DUSTUR came at the most appropriate time. Through the statement, all citizens and expatriates can know the facts of the current monetary policy, and the various investors can find answers to their questions pertinent to the existing economic and monetary situation. This will help hasten the process of returning things to their true proportions, and the return of the local money market to its full calm and normal course.

Receipt of Report From Envoy to U.S. Denied

NC3110172388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs issued the following statement today:

Some media organs have published a report that the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs has received a 10-page report from Lebanon's Ambassador in Washington Dr 'Abdallah Abu Habib and have listed some of the points in it. The General Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs denies this report and appeals to the media to be accurate in publishing reports from or about the ministry.

UN Envoy Aime Arrives in Beirut, Meets Al-Huss

NC0111091988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with Jean-Claude Aime, assistant UN under secretary general, at Government House at 1045 today. The meeting was attended by Salah Sutaytiyah, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Aime arrived at the military beach [in West Beirut] at 1030 on board a UN military helicopter from Beirut International Airport.

Hizballah Issues Statement Attacking Birri

NC3110175588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Hizballah issued a statement this afternoon accusing Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri of fanning the fire of sedition. It noted that Birri's speech yesterday, in which he accused Hizballah of assassinating three Amal military leaders, covers up intentions, preparations, and secret plans to shed blood, divert attention from Israel, and involve the area again in an atmosphere of tension and agitation.

The statement described Birri as an old cinema clown, power hungry, and incapable of saying a word of truth. It accused Birri of attempting to hide behind his hands that are covered with the blood of the innocent, while making a torrent of lies for which he expects fervent applause.

Syrian Army Posts Attacked; Casualties Unknown

NC3110122888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for an RPG and machinegun attack on a Syrian occupation army's post at the Al-Saddiq gas station in Al-Minya town in northern Lebanon at 2200 yesterday. A number of Syrian soldiers were either killed or wounded.

The 9 February Organization also claimed responsibility for a big explosion in front of a Syrian position at the Al-Amirikan al-Zahiriyah school in Tripoli at 0730 today. The number of casualties is not yet known because of the security cordon which the Syrian occupation forces and intelligence services threw up around the area.

PFLP-GC, Fatah Dissidents Deny Sending Forces

NC3110204088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Today in Damascus the PFLP-GC led by Ahmad Jibril and the Fatah provisional command led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] denied reports that they had sent fighters to Iqlim al-Kharrub.

Intensive 'Armed Presence' in Beirut Suburb

NC3110130688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] An intensive armed presence has been reported in a number of neighborhoods in Beirut's southern suburb, particularly Bi'r al-'Abd, Al-Musharafiyah, and Al-Ghubayrah.

Meanwhile, the Syrian forces declared a state of alert when gunmen fired at a roadblock jointly held by the Syrian troops and the internal security forces near Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali Vocational School in Bi'r al-'Abd this afternoon. One Syrian soldier and one internal security forces soldier were wounded.

'Enemy Vessels' Sighted Off Southern Coast

NC3110170188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Reports received from the South this evening indicate that enemy naval vessels have been cruising in Lebanese territorial waters along the southern coast.

Further on Israeli Military Action

Planes Fly Over Beirut

NC0111082188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying at low altitude over the capital a few minutes ago.

Planes Raid Positions

NC0111095788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0950 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Here is a report from the newsdesk: Israeli warplanes raided Palestinian positions east of Sidon a short while ago. The planes are flying over the Al-Shuf coast, and columns of smoke are being observed. The planes are drawing antiaircraft fire. We will keep you informed.

Raids Target DFLP Positions
NC0111101388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1003 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes are still raiding areas east of Sidon. Four raids have been carried out so far, the last one on Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Dulb a few minutes ago. According to Palestinian sources, the targets were positions belonging to the DFLP, particularly those in 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

The Israeli planes had earlier raided positions in the 'Aramun hills.

Further on Raids
NC0111102188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1008 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli aircraft have raided armed positions in the Al-Na'imah hills and in 'Aramun and east of Sidon, particularly in Al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and the vicinity of Al-Hamshari Hospital. Sirens were sounded in the city as the Israeli planes carried out mock raids over the area. The Israeli arcraft are now flying over the coastal road, dropping thermal balloons and drawing antiaircraft fire.

2 Killed, 4 Wounded in Raids
NC0111112588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli enemy aircraft made two raids on Palestinian positions in the Al-'Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Dulb, and the old Al-Miyah Wa Miyah road east of Sidon before noon today. According to preliminary reports, two people were killed and four others were wounded. They have since been moved to Shu'ayb Hospital in Sidon.

Clouds of smoke rose from the attacked targets and fire engines and ambulances rushed to the area, while the enemy aircraft drew intensive antiaircraft fire.

The enemy aircraft also raided positions on the Al-Na'imah Hills and 'Ayn Drafil areas and flew over the southern coast, drawing antiaircraft fire. The Israeli aircraft broke the sound barrier at 1245.

Raids Toll Updated
NC0111134088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to information received from Sidon, at least four persons were killed and 10 others wounded in the Israeli raids. Meanwhile, Palestinian sources have indicated that a number of persons are missing. Their fate is not yet known.

NNA correspondents have reported that the Israeli raids demolished three buildings at the entrance to the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp and a fourth building in the area of 'Ayn al-Dulb, and that the number of casualties is large. The wounded include 'Umar Muhammad, Manal 'Aqd, Hayfa' al-Qaysi, Fadi Muhammadiyah, Fu'ad Makkawi, Khalid Yasin, Jamal al-Qubaysi, and Walid al-Samrawi.

In light of the Israeli raids, the situation became tense on the Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir, and Kafr Falus lines. At 1255, clashes involving artillery and machineguns began between the positions held by the Popular Liberation Army and those of agent Lahd's militia.

Reportage on Visit of Austrian Delegation

Economic Agreement Signed

JN3010195188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] An agreement on economic cooperation and trade exchange was signed this evening between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Austrian companies of (Foest Elbine), (Bentext Import Export), and (Finbex Hendels Gershaft). These agreements [as heard] were signed on the Syrian side by Mustafa al-Bitar, director of international relations at the Ministry of Economy, and on the Austrian side by representatives of these companies.

The agreement provides for promoting and enhancing economic cooperation and trade exchanges between the two friendly countries. It also aims to diversify and expand Syrian exports to Austria and secure the importation of a number of Austrian commodities. The duration of this agreement is 1 year, which is automatically renewable.

Khaddam, Al-Zu'bi See Waldheim

JN3110142588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam at 0900 hours this morning visited Dr Kurt Waldheim, federal president of the Austrian Republic, at his place of residence in the Tishrin Palace.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 hours this morning also visited Dr Kurt Waldheim, federal president of the Austrian Republic, at his place of residence.

On both occasions, talks centered on bilateral relations, the results of President Waldheim's visit to Syria, and their effects on cooperation between the two sides in the future.

Austria's Mock Visits Al-Shar'

JN3110145888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Alois Mock, vice chancellor and Austrian foreign minister. Talks centered on bilateral relations and means of promoting them in various fields. They also discussed the situation in the region and the latest developments in the Lebanese arena.

Mock Holds News Conference

JN3110150688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, held a news conference in Tishrin Palace this morning attended by the Austrian ambassador in Damascus, several members of the Austrian delegation, journalists, and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and radio and television stations.

At the beginning of the news conference, the Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister said the Austrian delegation is satisfied with the results of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's visit to Syria. He thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for this kind invitation. Mock affirmed that one result of this visit in the economic sphere has been a $60-million barter agreement between the Syrian public sector and the Austrian public and private sectors. He pointed out that the Austrian side is completely satisfied with this result, particularly because the fruitful efforts of this visit have brought about the conclusion of this agreement.

Mock added that the Syrian side has expressed its readiness to diversify the list of commodities included in this agreement. He described Syrian-Austrian economic relations as good and said he hopes that this visit will be a springboard for better economic relations. Mock said that an agreement was reached on forming a joint Syrian-Austrian economic committee and on a special program for the first session of this commitee. He emphasized the importance of these matters with respect to the promotion of economic relations. He added that bilateral economic relations will be further enhanced.

Mock said political relations between the two countries have always been excellent. He added that the talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad were very interesting and took place in a cordial atmosphere and that President al-Asad is a political leader familiar with all international issues. Mock explained that during the talks, several points related to international problems and issues were discussed, chief among which was the Gulf war. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the cease-fire in the Gulf region.

On the Lebanese issue, Mock said: We believe this issue has been frozen for many years, and it could perhaps be resolved through an Arab conference. He added: However, we believe that this possibility is somewhat remote. He expressed regret over Israel's human rights violations against civilian inhabitants. He said that these practises violate international conventions, such as the Geneva convention on the rights of civilians during war. Mock reiterated Austria's support for the idea of an international Middle East peace conference, adding that in his opinion this is a long-term solution. The Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister explained that the political talks dealt with the positive role of the United Nations at the present time as a result of the detente between the two superpowers.

Mock pointed out that the UN secretary general has succeeded in exploiting this detente to settle some international issues, or to initiate the process of their settlement. He added that the Afghan problem and the Iraq-Iran war are among these issues. Mock said that during his visit to Syria, President Waldheim visited the UN forces which comprise a number of Austrians. He explained that Austria believes that UN emergency forces have an important role to play in the peace process, particularly in this region. He said that Austria has always expressed its readiness to increase the number of its forces in this region. He thanked the Syrian Government for the warm hospitality it accords to the Austrian personnel in these forces.

Concluding his statements, Mock described his visit to Syria as excellent, particularly in the economic sphere and with respect to bilateral relations. He said: We benefited much from the information His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has communicated to us.

In reply to a question, the Austrian vice chancellor said that Austria continues to support UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He added: However, following the latest developments in the region, we support the convocation of an international conference that will be approved by all the parties in the UN Security Council. He said: Austria, as well, for a long time has supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state. Mock stressed that Austria condemns any violation of international law and human rights by Israel, as well as its violation of several international agreements on human rights.

On the Austrian companies that will implement barter deals with the Syrian side, Mock said that there are companies from the private sector, and that there are also the companies of (Bentext) and (Finbex) and the national company which are companies the specialize in barter deals and have wide experience with the countries in the East, particularly Arab countries. He added that this agreement is open to all Austrian companies.

On relations between Austria and the military government in the eastern part of Lebanon [as heard] Mock said: Austria's stand is clear and there is a custom in Austrian law not to recognize governments but states only. He added that no contact was held with the military government in Lebanon.

Austrian Delegation Departs

JN3110114488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Austria's federal president, his wife, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1330 hours this afternoon after a cordial and official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic which lasted 5 days at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad. Heading those seeing him off at Damascus International Airport were President Hafiz al-Asad and his wife. Also seeing him off on the ramp were Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', head of the escort delegation, and the Austrian ambassador in Damascus, and their wives. [passage omitted]

Paper Reacts to Reports on Military Action

JN3110090088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Oct 88

[From the press review]

[Text] On Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon and the destructive, treasonous role embarked on by the fascist regime of Saddam Husayn in the service of the Zionist scheme to divide and fragment Lebanon, AL-BA'TH says: There is no need to mention the great sacrifices being made by Syria to save Lebanon from its ordeal and to avert all dangers surrounding it, particularly the Zionist danger. However, we want to emphasize that the campaign of the isolationists and their allies in Tel Aviv and Baghdad cannot affect our principled and firm stands, not only on the Lebanese issue but on all our nation's issues.

AL-BA'TH adds: It has become very clear that the Arab nation is facing an exposed Zionist scheme to be implemented by a clique of agents who do not care about the homeland and whose only concern is to create more worries and difficulties to prevent national salvation in Lebanon. This clique, therefore, quickly converged with Iraq's executioner, who gave it support—money and arms—to peddle the consecutive links of the partition plot. To further conspire against Lebanon's unity and Syria's pan-Arab role, the coordination between Iraq's executioner and the partition clique became open and escalated through the visit to the agent regime in Baghdad yesterday by one of the isolationist symbols.

AL-BA'TH says: This visit takes place when the Zionist agents in Lebanon escalated their misleading campaign focused on the so-called Syrian preparations to strike at East Beirut. In light of this, we reiterate that this exposed misleading only calls for derision. Our forces in Lebanon safeguard security and the souls of citizens. Our forces care about all Lebanese and work to make Lebanon for all its sons. Syria worked and is working for national reconciliation. It will remain at the side of Lebanon until this is achieved and until Lebanon emerges from the dark alley.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Leads Delegation to UN Meeting

LD3110165588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq left this morning for New York as a head of an official delegation to the 43d UN General Assembly.

Vice-President 'Abdulhamid Mohtat; Wolasi Jirgah Chairman Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi; Supreme Court Chairman Nezamuddin Tahzib; deputies and members of the Council of Ministers; the chairman of the Solidarity, Peace, and Friendship Society of the Republic of Afghanistan; a number of heads of some social organizations; the deputy minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowment; Yuliy Vorontsov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan; Handl Bohuslav, ambassador, and Carl England, head of the UN Development Program in the Republic of Afghanistan saw off the prime minister and his accompanying delegation at Kabul International Airport.

The delegation is made up of the following: Nematullah Pazhwa, minister without portfolio; Commerce Minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar; Returnees' Affairs Minister 'Abdul Ghafar Farahi; Farid Zarif, head of the International Affairs Section of the Presidency; Muhammad Sharif Marimzada, head of protocol of the foreign affairs minister; and Ghulam 'Ali (?Rastin), head of the office of the prime minister. Also Shah Muhammad Dost, the ambassador and permanent representative of the Republic of Afghanistan to the UN, and Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, who arrived in New York earlier, are included in the delegation.

Najibullah Calls for UN-Sponsored Conference

BK3010112088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 30 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah has called for an international conference on Afghanistan and proposed the country's possible "demilitarisation", the official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR said Sunday.

Speaking in Parliament in Kabul, Mr. Najibullah called on the United Nations secretary general to convene an international conference to determine the "neutral status of Afghanistan," the agency said in a report monitored here.

The conference would also discuss "international guarantees for defending human rights in Afghanistan, including vast political freedom," and prepare a program for international aid to the war-ravaged economy, he said.

"We can also consider demilitarisation of Afghanistan and the collection of weapons from the country and to deliver them to the producer countries" and the conference should discuss international guarantees for this, he said.

"Demilitarisation will create an atmosphere of non-violence and an environment of international cooperation in this Asian region," the agency quoted Mr. Najibullah as saying.

Najibullah Greets Jakes on CSSR Anniversary

LD2910222788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, has sent a congratulatory telegram to Prague on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Czechoslovakia addressed to His Excellency Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, and His Excellency Gustav Husak, president of the CSSR.

Expressing the warmest and most sincere congratulations of the PDPA Central Committee, and the government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan, and noting the tremendous victories of the CSSR in various areas of socio-political and econmic life, as well as the important role of that country in safeguarding peace and international security, the message extresses confidence that the inviolable friendship between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two fraternal countries will continue to expand in the interests of peace and security.

Prime Minister Sends Congratulations to CSSR

LD3010025588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, sent a congratulatory telegram to Prague on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Czechoslovakia. The message was addressed to His Excellency Ladislav Adamec, CSSR premier.

In expressing sincere best wishes and congratulations the message expresses confidence that the existing friendly and traditional relations between Afghanistan and the CSSR, on the basis of the interests of the two countries' peoples and international peace, will continue to be consolidated and developed.

Najibullah Approves Senatorial Appointment

LD3010233988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that the decree on the appointment of Sayyed 'Ali Akbar, son of Sayyed Abdurrazaq, as senator in the National Assembly dated 30 October 1988, has been approved by Esteemed Najibullah.

Najibullah Presents Award to Women's Leader

LD3110094888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 30, BAKHTAR—President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah, received here today the high-ranking delegation of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) headed by Mariam Tomenian.

During the meeting, while Masuma Esmuti Wardak, chairperson of All Afghanistan Women's Council was present, matters related to the women's movement in Afghanistan were discussed.

At the end of the meeting President Najibullah awarded friendship order of the peoples of the Republic of Afghanistan to Mariam Tomenian for her meritorious services for ensurance of peace and struggle for the attainment of the women's rights.

Keshtmand Attends Kabul PDPA Meeting

LD0111084888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 31, BAKHTAR—A session of the activists of party organisation of Kabul city was held in the October Plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA here today.

The session was attended by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and Haydar Mas'ud Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA CC, secretary of the party committee in Kabul City and other responsible persons of social organisations.

At the beginning of the session, Daud Razmyar, secretary of party committee of Kabul city read the main report emphasizing the implementation of Geneva accords which is a follow-up of the policy of national reconciliation. Five representatives of Kabul city party organisation expressed their views on the main report.

The work of the session was evaluated by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand. He in his speech said that the policy of national reconciliation is the only alternative to attain a compromise and to make peace with the opponents. This policy, he underlined, is a manifestation of new political thinking and expressed confidence that the policy will proceed with success. The work of the session ended with the adoption of a resolution.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Turkman SSR

LD3010232588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] The protocol of direct cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Culture of the Turkman SSR was signed this afternoon at the headquaraters of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

According to the protocol, the Turkman SSR will assist the Ministry of Culture and Information of Afghanistan in the field of culture, art, the training of skilled cadres, cinema and theatre, radio and television, and the supply of music instruments.

The protocol was signed on Afghan side by Mr Ahmad Bashir Roygar, minister of Information and Culture, and on the Turkman side by Mimiliyev Ashirmurad, minister of culture of the Turkman SSR. The documents were exchanged.

109th Note on Pakistani Violations Submitted

LD3010232788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] The Pakistani violations of the Geneva agreements were once again brought to the attention of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP]. A Ministry of Foreign Affairs source reports that the 109th note on Pakistan's open violations of Paragraph 2, Article I of the Geneva agreements was handed over to the mission this afternoon. The note says that Pakistan, by dispatching explosive materials to the extremist elements, set the stage for bombings and other operations by these elements. As a result of this action, tens of our compatriots have been killed or wounded and much material damage has resulted. The note requests that the results of the investigation be brought to the attention of the sides concerned and the representative of the UN secretary general.

Qandahar Deputy Commander Dies 30 Oct

LD3110185888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Brigadier General Sayyed Ghani, deputy commander of the Qandahar Corps, was buried this morning with full military honors at Tapa-e Shohada. The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that Major General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, first deputy defense minister; Major General Zabihullah Ziarmal, Political Affairs Department director in the Defense Ministry; a number of Defense Ministry deputy ministers; several generals and senior Armed Forces officers; and the late general's relatives and friends attended the funeral.

At the funeral, the biography and list of achievements of the late brigadier general were read by the head of the office of the chief of general staff. Maj Gen Ziarmal then spoke of the valuable contributions made by martyr Brig Gen Ghani in the service of the people, homeland, and revolution. He recalled with gratitude his efforts for ensuring peace in the country and conveyed the condolences of the Defense Ministry to his family and relatives. Two members of the family then thanked the Defense Ministry and other organs of the Armed Forces for their sympathy and condolences.

Martyr Brig Gen Sayyed Ghani was seriously wounded on 25 October while in the line of duty. He was immediately taken to the Armed Forces hospital and, despite intensive care by doctors, he died on 30 October. Martyr Brig Gen Sayyed Ghani was awarded the following medals and orders: Setara Grade II and III, the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution, the meritorious service award, and letters of gratitude from the PDPA Central Committee and the Defense Ministry.

According to another report, in line with a decree issued by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Brig Gen Ghani was posthumously promoted to the rank of major general and was awarded the medal of the April Revolution.

Infiltration by Pakistani Militias Alleged

LD3110064288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 31 Oct 88

["Commentary on Pakistan's Interventions Into the Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 30, BAKHTAR—There are available evidences and documents on the hand of the security forces of the Republic of Afghanistan confirming that foreign advisers including Pakistani militias are taking part alongside the Afghan extremist groups in the subversive activities carried out in Afghanistan.

The results of the activities of the Armed Forces in the provinces of Paktia, Zabol, Nangarhar, and Qandahar revealed that the Pakistani authorities not only allows foreign advisers to enter illegally inside Afghanistan but they also send their military advisers and border militias to cooperate with the Afghan extremists in fighting the people of Afghanistan. This was affirmed by the Western sources including AGENCE-FRANCE PRESS on October 27. Radio Voice of Germany in its program of October 28 referred to the fact that it is said in Islamabad that American and Arab advisers are actively helping "mujahidin". Radio Karachi on the same date quoting the spokesman of the U.S. Department of State published that two American military advisers were killed in Paktia Province.

Earlier, LE MONDE newspaper, printed in France in a report on Afghanistan affirmed that Pakistan has intensified its interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan and the Pakistani officers are directly taking part in the military operations inside Afghanistan including the use of rockets against the cities.

The Afghan sources have undeniable evidences at hand that on October first five hundred Pakistani militias, equipped with modern weapons, crossed the border along with a ringleader of extremists, Gerani [name as received], in an aim to carry out subversive activities in Zabol Province. On September 26, a group of 450 extremists accompanied by twenty five Pakistani officers transferred several units of surface-to-surface rockets inside Afghanistan.

On September 24, a 65-member group of Khalis along with seven Pakistani officers and four Arab advisers transferred twenty five units of surface-to-surface rockets inside Afghanistan.

These are all evidences confirming foreign interventions particularly that of Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan. Such interventions are also substantiating the violations of Geneva accords by Pakistani authorities.

304 'Extremists' Killed, 127 Wounded 29 Oct

LD3110094988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0506 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 30, BAKHTAR—Three hundred and four extremists backed by Pakistan and the US were killed and one hundred twenty-seven others wounded during the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces carried out in Qandahar, Parvan, Paktia, Zabol and Nangarhar Provinces on Saturday, our military correspondents report from that provinces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition of extremists, including eight hundred and twenty ground-to-ground rockets and several of their hideouts were demolished.

Seventeen marauders and robbers who were plundering peoples on the Salang highway of Parvan Province were wiped out today.

Heavy clashes which occurred lately over the sharing of looted properties among the members of Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremist bands in the Bagram District of Parvan Province, two ring-leaders of the Rabbani group were killed.

According to another report the residential areas in Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces were subjected to savage rocket attacks of extremists on Saturday and today. Four civilians were killed and ten others wounded as a result of the attacks. Twenty-five residential houses were demolished during the said attacks as well.

70 'Extremists' Killed in Qandahar Area

LD3110095088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0427 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 30, BAKHTAR—Seventy extremists were killed and seventy-three others wounded during the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces of the country which were carried out on Saturday in the Tor Kotal [placename as received] area and surroundings of Qandahar city. Several arms depots, a lorry of armaments and three of their hideouts were destroyed during the operations.

Extremists who were disturbing normal life of the people in the Chardara [placename as received] District of Konduz Province were heavily pounded by the Armed Forces of the country on Saturday as well.

Eighty-two extremists were killed during the operation and several hideouts of the extremists were demolished.

According to another report from Nangarhar Province eighteen extremists were crushed in the Patiray area of Chapliar Khwar District in Nangarhar Province on Saturday. An assorted of [as received] arms and ammunition of extremists came to the hand of the Armed Forces of the country.

'Extremist Elements' Launch Missile Attacks

LD3110162388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Yesterday and today our compatriots witnessed the crimes of extremist groups backed by the United States and Pakistan in Kabul city and Laghman Province. At around 1100 today extremist elements fired missiles at residential areas of Ward 10 of Kabul city. As a result of a missile which hit Muhammad Aslam's house in Bibi Mahro, four members of his family were injured.

At around 0700 yesterday extremist elements planted explosives next to the workers' cooperatives building, injuring one of our compatriots and slightly damaging a section of the building. In this incident two vehicles were also slightly damaged.

According to a report from Laghman Province, extremist elements fired 30 missiles and five mortars at residential areas of Mehtorlam city, Laghman Province, as a result of which two citizens of Mehtorlam were injured.

Mujahidin To Establish Islamic Council

BK3110161688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The leadership council of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin has decided to elect a consultative assembly that will be called the Islamic Council of Afghanistan. The chairman of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin, Professor Rabbani, told a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon that the peaceful transfer of power to the real representatives of the Afghan people engaged in valiant struggle against foreign and Kabul regime troops and the formation of an interim government are the objectives of this council. The council will help in creating conditions conducive for the return of refugees presently staying outside the country could return to their motherland with honor and dignity.

Professor Rabbani said the proposed council will consist of 400 or more members representing 216 districts and 50 subdistricts of Afghanistan. Each of the mujahidin organizations will also nominate 10 qualified persons to the council. No communist will be included in the council.

Answering a question, Professor Rabbani said as far as possible and if the situation permitted the council's session will be held inside Afghanistan.

Replying another question, he said a delegation led by him will leave for New York tonight where it will be present during the UN General Assembly debate on Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Shoot Down MiG in Zabol Province

BK0111084288 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have shot down a MiG plane near Qalat-e Ghelza'i, the headquarters of Zabol Province. The mujahidin are also reported to have attacked the suburban area of Kabul, (Besab), destroying two military vehicles and killing 10 Kabul regime troops. In an attack on the military camp in Bala Boluk in Farah Province, the mujahidin destroyed two tanks stationed in the camp. During this operation, 20 Kabul regime troops were killed. The mujahidin also destroyed a bridge of strategic importance on the road leading toward Farah city.

Mujahidin Move Toward Jalalabad City

BK3110063888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin are preparing to move toward the eastern city of Jalalabad from the three liberated areas of Paktia, Paktika and Konarha. Reports say that the mujahidin have moved closer to Qandahar city and are now only 1 km from the airport. They are keeping up pressure on the airport. On Saturday [29 October], the mujahidin launched rocket attacks at the airport's security posts and captured two Kalashnikovs and five machineguns. They also ambushed security posts of the Kabul forces at Tangi on the Jalalabad-Kabul road and seized two tanks, four military trucks, and two heavy artillery pieces.

Ambush Convoy in Salang Pass

BK3110112088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have conducted a missile attack on a security post in Herat city killing or injuring a number of Kabul regime troops. The security post building was razed to ground. They also have intensified their attacks in Parvan, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Qandahar Provinces.

According to agency reports the mujahidin also ambushed a military convoy in Salang [Pass] and destroyed at least 20 oil tankers. In another attack in the (Alnagar) area four Kabul troops were killed and 25 others injured by mujahidin. They also captured five tanks and a number of military vehicles during the operation.

India

Protocol Signed on Oil Exploration 28 Oct

BK2810164288 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol in New Delhi today to intensify oil exploration in the country. For India the protocol was signed by the additional secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mr L. Balakrishnan. The Soviet deputy minister for oil industry, Mr Nikishin, signed on behalf of his country.

The Soviet delegation has been in India since the 24th of this month. Intensive integrated exploration is being carried out with Soviet help in Cambay in Gujarat, Kavery in Tamil Nadu and in the West Bengal basin.

Nuclear Energy Official on Soviet Reactors

BK0111061388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr M.R. Srinivasan, has clarified that the ongoing negotiations with the Soviet Union for procurement of reactors will not affect the country's independent nuclear program. Speaking at a founders day function of the Bhaba Atomic Research Center in Bombay, he said the Russian reactors are similar to the ones being used in Europe and have a proven safety record.

Talks With Hungary End With Signing of Protocol

BK2810161288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The eighth session of the Indo-Hungarian joint commission meeting concluded in New Delhi today with the signing of a protocol between the two countries. The industry minister, Mr Vengala Rao, and the Hungarian deputy prime minister, Dr Peter Medgyessy, signed the protocol. Both the sides agreed that the volume of present trade between the two countries is small compared to the large potential that exists. They identified several sectors where fruitful cooperation can be increased. It was agreed that the existing trade level of over $100 million be increased to $200 million by 1990.

Special French Envoy Delivers Message to Gandhi

BK2910073088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Mr Mitterrand's special envoy, Mr (J. Artilla), called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi yesterday and handed over a special message. He also held discussions with senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said the visit is a part of the exercise undertaken by the French president to prepare the ground for the next summit of seven industrialized nations in Paris. Mr Mitterrand is expected to take firm initiative at the summit to break the deadlock in the north-south dialogue.

Netherlands Premier Arrives on Transit Visit

BK2810100988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The prime minister of the Netherlands, Mr Lubbers, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a day's transit visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Mr Lubbers will have talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in the evening. The Dutch premier leaves for Singapore tomorrow.

Minister Urges UK Action Against Terrorists

BK0111091688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] India has urged Britain to take firm action against those Punjab terrorists who are operating against the country from British soil. The visiting commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, underlined the need to take action against terrorists who are misusing British hospitality at the annual dinner of the India-British Association in London yesterday. Mr Dinesh Singh made the statement after the British trade and industry secretary assured him that India had Britain's fullest support in meeting the challenge of terrorism in Punjab. The commerce minister said increased cooperation between the two countries could help combat terrorism in India and elsewhere in the world. He pointed out that terrorists of one country today can become terrorists of another tomorrow. He expressed the hope that the British Government will take firm steps to ensure that persons hostile to India's well-being receive no help from any quarter in Britain.

Among others present at the dinner were the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh; India's High Commissioner Mr Rasgotra; British ministers, Mr Kenneth Baker, Lord (Glenarthur) and Mr Timothy Renton.

1,000 Specially Trained Police Deployed in Punjab

BK3110160488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, 1,000 specially trained police personnel are being deployed to control terrorism. The state police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen in Chandigarh today that day and night patrolling has been further intensified in the worst affected Taran Taran and Patti areas of Amritsar District.

Mr Gill said according to information reaching the police a number of terrorists, including the hard-core ones are thinking of surrendering to the security forces.

Four 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab 31 Oct
BK3110150088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, four terrorists were killed in two separate encounters with the security forces this afternoon. In Amritsar District, terrorists ambushed a patrolling party of the security forces under village Thatia Mahanta. In the exchange of fire three terrorists were killed.

Another hard-core terrorists was killed in Ludhiana.

'Terrorists' Kill 9, Injure 7 in Punjab 31 Oct
BK0111032388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down nine persons and seriously injured seven in two separate incidents last night. In Ferozepore District, the house of a sarpanch [village headman], Singara Singh, was attacked. In the indiscriminate firing that followed, six of his family members, including two women were killed, while the sarpanch received serious bullet injuries. In another incident, terrorists gunned down three persons and injured six at a shop on Tajpur road outside Ludhiana.

3 Suspected Saboteurs Detained in Srinagar
BK3110143888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 31 (AFP)—Security forces detained three men Monday on suspicion that they were about to blow up a television transmitting tower and an ancient Hindu temple here, police said.

A police spokesman here in the capital of northern India's Jammu and Kashmir State said the three were seen moving about in "suspicious circumstances" in the vicinity of the television tower and the Shankaracharya Temple early Monday when surprised by a police patrol.

The spokesman said the suspects had allegedly admitted that they were from Jammu and Kashmir State, but had returned here from Pakistan early this month after receiving weapons training.

The police official declined to give more details and would not identify the three.

In recent weeks a number of bomb blasts have rocked the state, which is controlled by the regional Moslem-dominated National Conference in alliance with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

Iran

Iraqi Forces Fire at, Wound Soldier Near Ahvaz
LD0111102988 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov. 1, IRNA—An informed source with the U.N. peace-keeping forces said here Tuesday that Iraqi forces fired at an Iranian soldier wounding him on the leg in Talaiyeh, near Kushk, southern fronts Saturday. U.N. peace keeping officials later visited the wounded Iranian soldier at a hospital here. Kushk is aabout 55 kms southwest of Ahvaz, near the Iraq-Iran border.

8 Countries Meet To Discuss Clearing Gulf
LD3110172188 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Kuwait, Oct. 31, IRNA—The 3rd Emergency Meeting of the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), opened here Monday, attended by the islamic Republic and the seven other Persian Gulf littoral states. The objective is to study plans for clearing Persian Gulf waters of mines and other floating debris from ships sunk during the nearly 8-year-old Iraqi-imposed war. The meeting will also explore ways of fighting water pollution caused by discharges from oil tankers and would draw up a plan making the use of filters compulsory for all ships sailing the waterway.

Today's session approved a suggestion by head of the Iranian delegation Mohammad Abduli for investigating pollution threats resulting from recent military operations. Head of the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP) addressing the gathering outlined the role of the world community in protecting marine life in the Persian Gulf.

AFP Report Clarified
LD0111112588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] AFP reports that the extraordinary session of the Persian Gulf Marine Environment Protection Bureau was suspended yesterday in Kuwait because the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran objected to the inclusion of the dredging of the Arvand River in the bureau's proposed plan for minesweeping operations in the Persian Gulf. The plan, tabled at the bureau's afternoon session, viewed the Arvand River waters as part of the Persian Gulf waters. The report says the participants at that session, after the necessary consultations following Iran's objection, rescheduled their meeting for today.

The Iranian representative at yesterday's session said in Kuwait that there is no connection between the Arvand River and the Persian Gulf and the dredging of the river depends upon the outcome of the Iran-Iraq peace talks. He added that Iran could not consider the question of dredging the Arvand River.

RESALAT Interviews Velayati on Peace Talks

NC3110190588 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Oct 88 p 3

['Exclusive' interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by a panel of unidentified RESALAT correspondents in Tehran on 22 October]

[Text] [RESALAT] We are on the threshold of the third round of direct talks between Iran and Iraq. At this juncture, what are Your Excellency's expectations from the UN Security Council members?

[Velayati] Our expectations regarding the UN Security Council are that they will fulfill their obligations; that is, categorical, earnest, overt and persistent support for the UN secretary general in the implementation of the resolution which they themselves have approved. It is their duty to establish, safeguard, and preserve peace and tranquillity in the world.

[RESALAT] Is there a possibility that the UN Security Council will issue a statement on the third round of talks?

[Velayati] We believe that a statement may be issued. The statement itself may not be very important, but its contents will be. [sentence as published] It should definitely be an effective statement which accelerates the correct and overt implementation of the resolution.

[RESALAT] What has the Islamic Republic of Iran agreed to discuss regarding the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab waterway] prior to commencement of the withdrawal of forces?

[Velayati] Discussion pertaining to the Arvand River should definitely be after the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders, which should take place within the confines of Clause 4 of Resolution 598. In addition, whatever is to be discussed in this regard will be on the basis of the 1975 accord. Anything outside the framework of this accord will not be accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[RESALAT] Will discussion of preliminaries not be accepted as well?

[Velayati] No.

[RESALAT] Has the Soviet Government offered any suggestions for furthering the progress of the talks?

[Velayati] There has been no specific suggestion, except for the fact that the Soviet authorities have stressed their support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's plan.

[RESALAT] Which of the UN Security Council member countries have not been fulfilling their obligations, and why?

[Velayati] We have not been attending the Security Council's sessions and I do not have any detailed or complete information on the discussions that take place there. The news which has reached us indicates that the serious lack of support by some of the members of the council for the correct and accurate implementation of the resolution has affected the trend of talks. They have given preference to their bilateral interests with Iraq rather than the implementation of the resolution and the general wishes of the people of the world for a just and durable peace in the region.

[RESALAT] Is it possible for you to name those countries?

[Velayati] No, as our information is not complete.

[RESALAT] Why is Iraq trying to digress and stall for time regarding the implementation of the resolution?

[Velayati] Our thinking is that the Iraqis did not want peace in the true sense of the word and the slogans they raised in the past year had no practical or sincere backing. When the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted Resolution No 598, the Iraqis were afflicted with a sort of confusion in their political moves and began issuing many contradictory statements. They constantly said one thing on one day and something else on another. We think that the Iraqis are facing internal problems. Their people desire peace while the Iraqi regime has not displayed any goodwill regarding the peace talks.

[RESALAT] Has the date for the third round of talks been set?

[Velayati] It has definitely not been set; at least, for us an official notification would have to come from the UN secretary general, and we have not yet received any such official notification to date.

[RESALAT] What is your excellency's opinion on the plan to release and exchange POW's prior to the withdrawal of forces to the borders?

[Velayati] We are in total concurrence on the issue of the exchange of POW's as we were in the past. We consider it one of the ethical and humanitarian necessities of war. However, Iraq is also playing games here; that is, there is much talk and slogan-raising on the subject but no action. If they were sincere, they would also have released some disabled POW's as we did, without any fanfare or stalling for time for propaganda purposes, to prove that they in fact desire the same.

The UN secretary general's four-point plan for accelerating the implementation of the resolution also includes a prisoner exchange. So far as we know, the Iraqis have not yet given any official response to the plan. However, outside this framework, some individuals affiliated with the Iraqi regime have remarked on the negation or rejection of proposals by the UN secretary general in New York, when the Iraqis had not given any official response. Well, they do not reply to the proposals of the UN secretary general and then—apart from the UN secretary general's plan and the resolution—they announce that they are ready to exchange prisoners!

This is nothing new, and we have been prepared for this from the outset. However, the modus operandi for the exchange of prisoners is what the UN secretary general has stated. The Iraqis did not propose any solution but presented a proposal outside the framework of the resolution for propaganda purposes. In any case we are willing to commence the exchange of POW's within the framework of Resolution 598 and Clause No 4 of the UN secretary general's plan.

[RESALAT] Have talks on the restoration of complete ties between Iran and Great Britain been suspended?

[Velayati] They have been temporarily suspended but will continue in the future.

[RESALAT] What is your prediction regarding Iraq's acceptance of withdrawal to the borders in the next round of Geneva talks?

[Velayati] As the Iraqi delegation's movement is not within a principled framework, an accurate prediction of what will take place in Geneva is not easy. However, if it is decided that Resolution No 598 is to be implemented, then the withdrawal is the next step following the cease-fire. It has been explicitly stated in the resolution that withdrawal should take place immediately after the cease-fire, without any delay. Two months have elapsed since the cease-fire but Iraq has not taken any step in this regard. Undoubtedly, all other measures regarding implementation of Resolution No 598 should follow the withdrawal in conformity with the the context and spirit of the resolution.

[RESALAT] Recently the U.S. propaganda agencies have disseminated a report on the release of hostages against supply of arms to Iran.

[Velayati] We categorically deny this report. I was asked the same question in the United States and I denied it vehemently. Recently, Iran's UN representative Mr Mahallati also issued a denial and I strongly deny this report.

[RESALAT] Have there been any contacts through unofficial channels with the United States?

[Velayati] No contacts have taken place at all.

[RESALAT] Does the Islamic Republic of Iran have any conditions for a change in ties with Saudi Arabia in light of the recent position taken by King Fahd?

[Velayati] For every positive step taken by Saudi Arabia to eliminate difficulties regarding mutual relations, we shall reciprocate with a positive step. However, the difficulties were such that they culminated in a severance of relations. The elimination of these difficulties will help to improve the atmosphere of the relations between the two countries.

[RESALAT] Will the resumption of ties take place through Saudi Arabia as well?

[Velayati] We should first wait and see if what has been said is accompanied by action.

[RESALAT] Is there any talk of a meeting between the Persian Gulf countries and Iran to establish security in the region?

[Velayati] There is no such talk of a collective session with all the Persian Gulf countries. The real basis for the region's future security is the improvement of the atmosphere of relations between Iran and the countries of the region. However, we do not have any problems with most of the regional countries. There are some difficulties with a few countries, but these can be resolved on the basis of understanding, goodwill and the wishes of the parties involved.

[RESALAT] What is the state of official relations between Iran and Kuwait at present?

[Velayati] These relations have been established, and at present the Kuwaiti Embassy has reopened in Tehran and that country's officials are engaged in their work. Our embassy in Kuwait reopened earlier. In recent weeks, our relations with Kuwait have been positive.

IRNA Cites Velayati Statement

LD3110201588 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Geneva, Oct. 31, IRNA—Talks on establishing permanent peace between Iran and Iraq resumed for the third time in two months Monday as representatives from each country met here with the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. But there was no clear signal from Iraq that it had put aside its demand for sovereignty over the Arvand River and the clearing of the waterway, the two major issues which have prevented progress in the talks in previous rounds. In the meantime Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati called for a halt in Iraqi delaying tactics saying that the way forward depended on Iraq.

"The prospects for the present talks in Geneva depends much on Iraq's position towards (the secretary general's) approach," he said in a prepared statement prior to his talks with Perez de Cuellar. He said the U.N. Security Council's strong support for Perez de Cuellar's mediation plan, which calls for the withdrawal of troops to international borders, before settling issues like the Arvand River, should indicate to Iraq that it could not continue its procrastinations. "I believe it should serve as a clear signal to Iraq to refrain from imposing its interpretation on the Security Council, the secretary general and the region," he added.

After his talks with the secretary general, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said it was up to Iran "to show a similar sort of good faith and cooperation in order to achieve progress." He did not spell out Iraq's position on Perez de Cuellar's four-point plan. The plan calls foremost for the strengthening of the ceasefire and freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf, withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders, exchange of prisoners of war and resolution of mutual differences including the issue of the Arvand River. "It is indeed against logic and common sense to attempt to link the clearing of a common border river with ceasefire," Dr Velayati said in his statement.

He reiterated that the 1975 peace accord between the two countries had envisaged a joint committee to dredge the river. Iraq does not recognize the accord which it unilaterally abrogated in 1980 shortly before sending its army into Iran. "It becomes illegitimate and dangerous when this turns into a precondition and an obstacle to impede implementation of the withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundries demanded by Resolution 598...."

The secretary general's talks with the Iraqi foreign minister lasted slightly longer than with the Iranian foreign minister. Direct talks between 'Aziz and Velayati were expected to begin Tuesday but there has been no official confirmation. The secretary general later told reporters that he hoped progress on his implementation plan would be achieved as talks progressed. But it was still too early to expect anything.

"The 4-point plan is one of the questions we are going to discuss but you have to be a little patient... I hope that tomorrow (Tuesday) we will make sufficient progress on some points," he said. He said he found both sides "as usual interested in serious discussions."

It is believed that Perez de Cuellar with the latest support from the Security Council will put more pressure on Iraq to go along with his implementation plan and set aside its demands on the Arvand River for the time being at least. But observers say it is not at all clear that the Iraqis are willing to go along with the plan at this stage since they consider the Arvand River, or Shatt al-'Arab as they call it, vital for the resumption of Iraqi shipping in the Persian Gulf.

'Text' of Velayati Statement

LD3110211788 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Geneva, Oct. 31, IRNA—The following is the text of Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati's statement to the press prior to his talks with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Ladies and gentlemen. We left Geneva last time, when it became evident that no further progress could be cited by continuing the talks in Geneva. The secretary general invited the two sides to continue the talks in New York after a period of reflection. The purpose of the talks in New York was based on the official statement of invitation by the secretary general, to complete the implementation of Paragraph 1 of Resolution 598 after the ceasefire.

This of course, meant clearly that the much belated withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized boundaries should have been completed. The secretary general also has stated that he intended to finalize the timing and procedure for implementing other paragraphs of the resolution. We were then expected to return to Geneva to deal with other outstanding issues which may be addressed under Paragraph 4 of the resolution. The objectives that the secretary general thus had set forth, as you know, were not fully accomplished and the withdrawal of forces to the internationally recognized boundaries is yet to commence.

The talks were useful, however, as an approach was presented in the form of a 4-point plan by the secretary general which can help to proceed with the implementation of the resolution. This approach has been fully backed by the Security Council. In a statement presented by the president of the Security Council to the press, the urgency of withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries was once again reiterated in order to consolidate the ceasefire. We are not yet informed of Iraq's official position on the secretary general's approach. The prospects for the present talks in Geneva depends much on Iraq's position towards this approach.

The strong statement by the Security Council should convince Iraq that its unilateral interpretation of the resolution can no longer serve as an obstacle to the implementation of the resolution. I believe it should also serve as a clear signal to Iraq to refrain from imposing its interpretation on the Security Council, the secretary general and the region. Iraq, therefore, must bring itself in line with the approach of the secretary general and the position of the Security Council. We for our share, have already stated our readiness to cooperate with this approach. Iraq's words of goodwill for achievement of peace is yet to be accompanied with real intentions and positive positions within the framework of the 598 resolution. This resolution is the recipe for peace.

We should therefore continue to implement other paragraphs of the resolution after the ceasefire in order to assure speedy progress. Procrastination and delay under whatever pretext should no longer be allowed. It is indeed against logic and common sense to attempt to link the clearing of a common border river with ceasefire. More so, it becomes illegitimate and dangerous when this turns into a precondition and an obstacle to impede implementation of the withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundaries demanded by Resolution 598 under Articles 39 and 40 of the U.N. Charter. The clearing of Arvand Rud (River) is not a part of the resolution. In the spirit of goodwill, however, we have stated time and again that we are prepared to begin the dredging operation within the only possible and established framework stipulated in the 1975 treaty.

For this purpose, the two sides should cooperate to reactivate as soon as possible the Common Bureau of Coordination (CBC)—which is the body responsible for matters related to navigation in Arvand Rud—in order to make a joint decision on the procedures and timing. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been serious and objective in the talks and shown its goodwill by being faithful to the letter and spirit of Resolution 598. We have come here with the same spirit, we are ready to proceed without delay with the implementation of the resolution in order to establish a lasting peace in the region. It goes without saying that peace will be lasting with the territorial (integrity) of the two states fully preserved.

Larijani Interviewed on Peace Talks With Iraq

PM3110123688 Paris LE MONDE in French 30-31 Oct 88 p 3

[Jean Gueyras report: "Stagnation Rather Than Deadlock"]

[Text] On a brief stopover in Paris, Mohammad Javad Larijani was relatively optimistic about the outcome of peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq which will resume in Geneva on 31 October under Mr Perez de Cuellar's guidance. "We cannot talk of deadlock in this connection," the Iranian deputy foreign minister told us, "but rather of some stagnation in the preliminary talks due to Iraq's dilatory attitude. Iran, for its part," he said, "has accepted the timetable for the forthcoming discussions recently drawn up by the UN secretary general and approved by the Security Council."

According to Mr Larijani, it comprises a series of proposals including a 2-week period for the withdrawal of the two countries' troops to the internationally recognized borders, followed by an exchange of prisoners of war which should be completed within 2 or 3 months, and finally negotiations on all outstanding problems, as stipulated in Paragraph 4 of UN Resolution No 598, including the adoption of measures aimed at ensuring freedom of navigation in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz for all sides concerned. "If everybody sticks to this timetable," Mr Larijani added, "we can hope that there will be progress in the negotiations. However, if elements not included in this timetable are introduced into the discussions, the preliminary talks will be threatened with paralysis."

He thinks that Mr Perez de Cuellar's new initiative is logical. The root of the problem, he said, is the consolidation of the cease-fire and the immediate withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders. "The problem of clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway has been artificially raised by the Iraqis to make things difficult, because this operation is not really a problem. Everybody agrees on the need to clear this waterway, but there are procedures for doing this, and the two sides will have to take part in dredging the waterway, but only under Article 4 of UN Resolution No 598 and in accordance with the terms of the 1975 Algiers Treaty."

The Risk of a New War

Mr Larijani does not regard this treaty as negotiable because it is the only document which delineates the borders between Iran and Iraq. "Calling it into question," he said, "amounts to threatening Iran's territorial integrity and would herald the start of a new war." The deputy minister, who was received on Friday 28 October by Roland Dumas, described as "very constructive" the French Government's position fully supporting Mr Perez de Cuellar's new initiative and the role which the latter is playing in settling the Iran-Iraq dispute. With regard to relations between Paris and Tehran, he said that "great progress" has been made but that "there is still a great deal to be done," because there is great potential for cooperation between the two countries. "Our relations," he said, "have gone beyond the bargaining stage and are now at the stage of cooperation and consultation."

Mr Larijani, who is regarded as one of the main architects of his country's policy of openness toward the West, welcomes the recent progress in this sphere. He thinks that the main obstacle to the normalization of relations with Washington remains "the U.S. leadership's hostility toward Iran." This hostility, he said, has not lessened since the start of the Islamic revolution and stems from real paranoia toward Tehran. However, he continued, if this policy is changed, nothing will stop the resumption of relations with the United States. In this connection, Mr Larijani hinted that there have been numerous contacts between Washington and Tehran through politicians who have good relations "with us and with the United States," and that "the Americans are well informed about our position which can be summed up as follows: We are prepared to have normal relations with any country which is prepared to have relations with us based on mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs."

Statement on Iraqi Chemical Attacks Issued

LD3110143788 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Geneva, Oct. 31, IRNA—A list containing the names of dozens of Iraqi medical workers executed or missing in Iraq has been presented to the International

Commission of Health Professionals (ICHP). The list presented by the London-based organization of human rights in Iraq included the names of three former health ministers two of whom were killed by the regime and a third has disappeared. The ICHP, a branch of the World Health Organization, meeting in Geneva on October 24-28 heard reports by specialists about the mistreatment of health professionals in Iraq and occupied Palestine, among others. In a statement, the commission also said it heard special reports prepared on the gassing of Kurds in northern Iraq.

In a message to the commission, a leading expert on chemical weapons called for the expulsion of countries who refused to cooperate with the United Nations in investigating alleged cases of chemical attacks. "By refusal or veto of the country concerned, we should withdraw the membership of this country form the U.N.," said Professor Heyndryks in his message. The Belgian toxicologist also called for the formation of an international agency to monitor the manufacture and use of chemical and biological weapons worldwide. Iraq heavily bombed its own Kurdish areas in late August and September causing thousands of casualties among civilians and forcing thousands more to flee across the border to Turkey and Iran. It refused entry to specialists from international organizations to investigate the attacks.

Commentary on New Round of Peace Talks

NC3110084088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0545 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] The new round of Iran-Iraq talks on the implementation of UN Resolution No 598 are to start in New York [as heard] today. As Foreign Minister Velayati has disclosed, this round of talks will focus on the withdrawal of military forces to the two countries' international borders, as well as on accelerating the implementation of Articles 2 and 3 of the resolution.

The conclusion, drawn from a study of the two delegations' past meetings, held under the auspices of the UN secretary general or his representative, is that the Iraqi regime is not interested in a rapid solution of the preliminary steps and in implementing the resolution. By placing obstacles on the path of the logical trend of the talks and by putting forth illogical preconditions, the Baghdad leaders have prevented the UN secretary general from achieving a logical solution thus far. However, as the news on these negotiations is among the world's most interesting developments and as public opinion in various countries and several governments are closely following this issue, the Ba'thist leaders cannot continue to obstruct the implementation of the resolution for long.

The Iraqi regime is now considered throughout a world as lacking consistent decision-making, a political blow which definitely will have an impact on its future relations. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran is now regarded as a powerful regime in the world's political arena because it has held a logical position since the talks commenced, declared its support for the 1975 Algiers pact, and insisted on its well-known principles. This development has created very favorable ground for the adoption of future decisions with regard to our relations with other countries of the world. However, it should be acknowledged that world arrogance has never ceased plotting against the Islamic revolution of Iran. Each time it perceives weakness in Iran, world arrogance will use all its strength and potential to organize a new onslaught against us.

The current strength of Islamic Iran on the international scene and the declaration of decisive positions by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran at international talks, particularly vis-a-vis the Iraqi regime, rely only on the Armed Forces and the mobilization of popular forces stationed on the country's borders. It is the strength of these forces that complements our political strength; and, as we have repeatedly said, our military strength and structure and our political activities in the region and in the world should move in parallel lines like the rails of a railroad so that they can help the train of the Iranian nation's victories and successes travel on that railway.

Thus, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran should, under such sensitive circumstances, display utmost alertness, and preserve with all their might their active presence on the country's borders. The Armed Forces also should neutralize any possible plot by the enemy in order to form a strong backbone, with their strength, during the participation in the new round of talks.

Commentary on Lebanese Minister's Visit to Iraq

LD3110144188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1051 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Station commentary: "The Visit to Iraq by a Minister in Lebanon's Military Cabinet"]

[Excerpts] Invited by the Iraqi regime, the trade minister of Lebanon's military cabinet has left for Iraq so that, by using the Baghdad international fair as an excuse, he may hold talks with the regime's authorities. Since 22 September, the torn country of Lebanon has had two governments and no president. Commander of the Lebanese Army, Michel 'Awn, who was chosen as prime minister by Amin al-Jumayyil in the last hours of his presidency, has received official political recognition only from the Iraqi regime. Even though the Israeli regime is the true backer of the Lebanon regime, the Zionist occupiers have not officially recognized it for the sake of certain regional considerations.

The Iraqi regime rashly supports any anti-Syrian or anti-Iranian measure or organization in Lebanon. Currently, the main representative of the Israeli line in Lebanon is the paramilitary, right-wing organization of the Lebanese Forces, led by Samir Ja'ja', who, along with part of the Lebanese Army, supports Michel 'Awn. This organization, through threats and kidnapping some members of parliament, has so far prevented numerous parliamentary sessions from obtaining the necessary quorum and an official status in order to elect a president or a parliamentary speaker. Through these means and in a situation in which Lebanon has two governments, the possibility of an official partition of Lebanon has increased. [passage omitted]

What has drawn the attention of analysts is that the Iraqi regime's support for the right-wing Christian organization in Lebanon has established Arab support for Samir Ja'ja', support which he had thus far lacked. Saddam, Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and 'Arafat, after meetings in Jordan's port of Aqaba and also in Baghdad, have now formed a four-sided reactionary coalition aimed at speeding-up compromise efforts for solving the Palestinian crisis and at limiting the scope of influence and actions of revolutionary and popular governments and organizations in the region, particularly in Lebanon. Iraq's support for the organization of right-wing and isolated Christian forces has increased to such a degree that it has sent large amounts of heavy and light weaponry to Lebanon. Lebanese sources confirm that there are chemical bombs among the weaponry, which Lebanese right-wingers could possibly use in their next clash with Lebanon's revolutionary and progressive forces or the Syrian Army.

In such circumstances, the new four-sided reactionary coalition has embarked on a new attempt to limit Syria's influence in Lebanon: an extraordinary meeting of Arab leaders to examine the Lebanese crisis. Although the suggestion may seem to be a positive move, analysts believe that the ulterior motive behind the suggestion is the weakening of Syria's role in Lebanon and in the region. The supporters of the meeting are so determined to achieve their aim that they have proposed holding the extraordinary Arab leaders' meeting in Baghdad. Bearing in mind the political disagreements between Syria and Iraq, and the Iraqi regime's support for Syria's main opposition, that is, the right-wing Lebanese Forces, if such a meeting is held, it is clear that the result will be to the advantage of the reactionaries. To foil such a move, the Syrian Government has embarked on a diplomatic effort and sent its foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', with a message from Hafiz al-Asad to several Arab states, the Persian Gulf littoral states in particular.

It will not be long before the aggressive ideas of the regime of Saddam—who found himself to be incapable in the 8-year war—will appear in other regions of the Middle East, such as the Lebanese crisis or the Palestinian issue. In line with the Zionist regime's interests, he will try to confront the region's Islamic and revolutionary forces. However, just as a large section of the Lebanese people last month voiced their protest against the Iraqi regime's interference in Lebanon, the Saddam regime's new and reactionary policies in the region will meet very sturdy obstacles and achieve nothing.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Emphasizes Atomic Energy

LD3111195088 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani today emphasised the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes adding "no one can ignore this phenomena in today's world." Outlining the Islamic Republic's policy to promote science and scientists, he said any country which claims to use modern science cannot be heedless of this important political and infrastructural factor. However, the Majlis speaker admitted that Iran has not made much progress in this vital field. Addressing a group of foreign and local researchers and university professors who took part in the recent 3-day maths-physics seminar, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iranian scientists—whether they believe in the revolution or not—cannot find a more suitable place than their own homeland to serve.

"If you do not serve Iran, whom will you serve? Is it possible for a scientist's conscience to be misled by the deceptive clamour of a plunderer country?" he questioned. On the Islamic Republic's independence, Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran was exploited by colonialists for over a century and a half beginning from the later Qajarid era till the Islamic revolution's triumph (1979). But everything is now changed, "The Islamic Republic did not sacrifice freedom in the worst conditions, and will continue to safeguard it", he said because the spirit dominating Iran's policy is that of independence and justice. The first international maths-physics seminar sponsored by Iran's atomic energy organization concluded at the Caspian Sea resort of Ramsar last Saturday.

Omani Oil Minister Arrives With Qabus Message

LD3110105088 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—Omanese Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari arrived here today and was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport by his Iranian counterpart Gholamreza Aqazadeh. His visit is aimed at reviewing Tehran-Muscat oil cooperation and evaluating the international oil market. He also carries a message for President 'Ali Khamene'i from Oman's ruler Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. In an interview at the airport, Al-Shanfari said he is commissioned by the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC to contact with OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries in order to coordinate efforts for the stabilisation of oil prices.

He said the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh this month reviewed the five percent decrease in the oil production of oil producers outside OPEC in an effort to stabilise oil prices. He expressed hope that OPEC member states would establish a better understanding between themselves and adopt unified policies.

Discusses Oil with Aqazadeh

LD3110181688 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh held talks today with his Omanese counterpart on the situation of the world oil market, and the necessity of cooperation among all oil producing countries for stabilising the price. Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari who arrived earlier in the day described the talks as useful and hoped that Tehran and Muscat would form a technical committee to expand oil and economic ties.

Danish Deputy Minister Discusses Trade

LD3010181988 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Iran and Denmark are to cooperate in agro industries, banking, and in the oil and gas sector. Danish Deputy Foreign Minister K. Eric Tygesen in his meeting with Iran's Deputy Commerce Minister for Foreign Trade Affairs Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj Sunday underscored the need for expansion of mutual ties in various other fields. The two sides also agreed that Denmark would study ways of increasing its non-oil imports from Iran. Tygesen heading a 46-man delegation arrived in Tehran last Friday.

Holds Talks With Besharati

LD3110142388 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—Danish Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs K. Eric Tygesen in a meeting with Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Monday pledged Denmark's support for the full implementation of U.N. Resolution 598. Tygesen expressed hope that the current ceasefire in the war would lead to a lasting peace. He also announced Denmark's readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic in various fields in post war reconstruction. He submitted Beshrati a message from Danish Foriegn Minister Effe Ellemann-Jensen. In response, Besharati, saying the Islamic Republic favors friendly ties with all countries, noted that exchange visits between Iranian and Danish delegations would help expand mutual ties.

Hungarian Envoy Briefs Besharati on Pact Meeting

LD3010223088 Tehran IRNA in English 1821 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Hungarian Amnbassador Zsigmond Kazmer hailing the results of Premier Karoly Grosz' recent visit to Tehran, presented to Iran's first deputy foreign minister a copy of the statement released by the recent foreign ministerial session of Warsaw Pact member countries held in Budapest. The statement called for security and cooperation among European states. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati replied the Islamic Republic backs all moves toward disarmament, and hoped peace and tranquility would one day prevail throughout the globe. Hungarian Premier Grosz paid a three-day visit to Tehran (Oct. 25-27) at the head of a ranking delegation.

Released POW's Hold News Conference

LD3110183488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The 25 Iranian disabled POW's, released by the Iraqi regime yesterday, attended a news conference this evening and explained how the Iraqi regime is treating Iranian POW's. The news conference was attended by domestic and foreign reporters, two physicians who are treating the released POW's, a POW-MIA commission official, and the 25 POW's. The POW's, made up of 17 military men and 8 civilians, spoke about instances of the Iraqi regime's violations in the treatment of the POW's and the capture of civilians.

Mr Aqamiri, the official in charge of the POW-MIA commission, gave the reporters some examples of Baghdad's violations of international conventions regarding the capture of the civilians, including lack of facilities for the disabled and sick POW's, refusal to release the disabled and gravely sick POW's, the prevention of registration of the POW's names, and the report prepared by the International Red Cross teams which visited the Iraqi camps. He said that in return for the release of these 25 men, 25 Iraqi disabled and crippled POW's were released by Iran to be taken home in the same plane. He added that the Islamic Republic had previously announced it is prepared to release as many Iraqi POW's as the number released by Iraq, but unfortunately, Iraq did not accept this proposal. In conclusion, he again declared the readiness of the Islamic Republic to exchange POW's within the framework of Resolution No 598. [passage omitted]

Claim Iraq Tortured Prisoners

LD3110190588 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—"We were tortured in violation to the Geneva Convention" screamed the fresh batch of Iranian POWS set free by the Iraqi regime. Omid 'Ali Salehi, 27, displaying parts of his scarred body to foreign and local reporters said he had to tolerate various kinds of torture during several years of captivity in Iraq. Traces of torture were quite visible on Omid 'Ali's body, although several months had elapsed since the Ba'thists ceased torturing him in anticipation of his release. He is part of the 25 POWS including 8 civilians kidnapped during the initial days of the Iraqi aggression who arrived here via Turkey Sunday. The Islamic Republic reciprocated by releasing 25 Iraqi POWS the same day.

Dr Rajab 'Ali Kuhpareh, a 57 year old civilian said contrary to all international norms he was taken prisoner by Iraqi troops near Abadan in 1980 and kept for several years at a POW camp. He was seized by Iraqi forces while trying to help his wife and 4-year old daughter out of the then besieged town. A judge by profession, Dr Kuhpareh strongly lashed out against the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and said although ICRC had been informed by his relatives in Iran of his captivity, it made no attempt to secure his release. Tears of joys rolling down his cheeks, he said for almost 33 months of his eight-year captivity he languished in a dungeon deprived of such bounties of nature as fresh air and sunshine.

A general practitioner who examined the POWS and said all prisoners are seriously ill and medical tests prove some even suffer from grave diseases. Head of commission for Iranian POWS and those missing in action said according to the list released by ICRC there are 18,000 Iranian civilians and military forces prisoned in Iraq. Whereas, Mahmudreza Aqamiri noted, the evidence together with the statements of Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi prove there are at least 50,000 to 53,000 Iranian POWS in Iraq, most of whom he said, are civilians and must be repatriated to Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Speech on Islamic Unity

LD2910012788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran 25 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] While expressing my congratulations on the blessed birthday of the blessed prophet and on the birthday of his illustrious son, Imam Sadiq, I wish to take this opportunity to raise the unity issue and to discuss ways of solving this issue. [passage omitted] Since yesterday when it was decided that I should come and open this meeting in place of our esteemed brother, His Excellency Mr Khamene'i, who usually opens this seminar and who is now on a trip, I have done a great deal of thinking. I took the opportunity to sit and think of how we might cure this great ailment. We have about one billion Muslims. We have nearly 50 countries. We are present nearly everywhere in the world. We possess many capabilities. However, no effective step is taken in the world in the name of Islam, particularly the pure and genuine Islam. We are not making correct use of this divine bounty and of this great blessing. On the contrary, we are even making a loss instead of a profit. [sentence as heard]

At the moment, there are many differences in our society in the name of Islam. If we did not wish to talk of Islam, probably we would not have had some of these differences, because each denomination, each tendency, each group wishes to be Muslim, and each has a different understanding of Islam and different interpretations. A number of differences arise from this situation. There are natural differences among people, among different societies. We have an additional difference in the form of Islam. A glance at Koranic verses indicates a path to us.

I accept that this is extremely difficult. To achieve unity of expression, preliminary steps are difficult, and even later, if we achieve any consensus, its preservation is difficult. This is a fact of our life, but we should take the time to start it and to continue it. However, we should admit that this is a very difficult thing to achieve. It requires a great deal of sacrifice, a great deal of time. A number of people should prepare themselves and purify themselves for the sake of this goal, so that we may make some progress. [passage omitted]

What can we do in society when we have individuals with differing views? The path has already been revealed to us. The Koran, which is the language of creation and which provides the program for the administration of society, explains this and says that we have solved this problem through the prophets and through holy books. In other words, these differences can be resolved through mediation, through divine teachings, and through divine law. [passage omitted].

Heavenly books, divine religions, and the prophets have all come to solve the differences of opinion which exist. They wish to act as mediators, because differences of opinion among human beings can never be eliminated. Their goal is to issue judgments in such cases and to act decisively, either in the form of laws or in the form of judgments, or both, so that societies can act in harmony and cooperate with each other around a certain axis. Another difficulty that has arisen in this connection is again discussed in the Koran. The prophets came; they brought divine books and judgments. Later, issues should be judged in the course of history on the basis of that judgment. Those who wish to understand and act on that book again differ among themselves. This is the problem we are concerned with here. Our discussion with you 'ulema regarding our issues and the issues of the Islamic world starts here.

In the world, even those who do not believe in religion have accepted this path, namely the path presented by the Koran, the path revealed by the prophets. Countries which completely deny the soul, deny spirituality in the way that we understand it, deny the world of the unseen, and think in a completely materialistic way solve their problems through laws. They have legislatures which make laws. They even formulate international laws for themselves. Inside their countries they have their own laws. When two countries deal with each other, they too have certain laws. The bloc of Marxist countries have their own international laws. They also have international laws vis-a-vis their opposite side, which is the capitalist world. They have regional internationals [as heard]. These internationals are also based on laws. They make some laws and say that in cases of differences they should act on the basis of those laws. This is the path the Koran presents in the form of the shari'a and holy books, while the world acts on the basis of its own thoughts, ideas, and experiences. In some cases we see that their path is completely false.

Some people in the world are not faced with the problems that we face. Those who have nothing to do with divine laws, with God's book and the like, each day revise their own laws. They have parliaments, authoritative sources. They revise their laws, they make joint decisions, and go on solving the problems that they face, both on the domestic front and on the international front. Revealed religions such as Christianity, which does not involve itself in social issues and which mainly deals with moral and spiritual issues, do not have many difficulties in this regard, although they have formed tens of sects and denominations for themselves. But Islam, which as the last divine religion and most perfect heavenly ideology is responsible for the administration of the people and which is in charge of government, judgment, sovereignty, and the program for the world's welfare, has its own special responsibiliies and we should think about these issues. [passage omitted]

The second problem for humanity in connection with heavenly religions stems from the fact that the learned people, and most particularly those 'ulema who are in charge of religious issues, because of the differences of opinion that arose among them, have opened up a new source of disunity. A new difference arose within the context of the unity of the people and the administration of society. However, the Koran does not regard this difference as a natural one. On the one hand, differences are natural, but in a different dimension differences are not natural. The negative aspect of differences is not natural, it is a violation. Now what are the main reasons for this violation? Is this violation due to violating the interests and rights of others? Or is it due to merely a violation of the limits imposed on man's interference with heavenly teachings, when a man permits himself to meddle with those teachings. From the Koran we learn that these violations are due to the people themselves. They are due to a desire to go to excess, to monopolize, to exaggerate. These are the roots of these differences.

We who believe in the Koran and who should carefully weigh its every word, should realize that these differences can be cured. They can be eliminated. In the same way that the first difference was solved in the way prescribed by the Koran, by the world, by Islam, and by the prophets—through laws—we should solve the second difference. In other words, this also is in need of some mediation, a common axis by which we can overcome these differences, and even make use of these differences for the sake of the advancement of religious sciences. The officials in charge of this conference asked me to speak about the obstacles that exist in the path of unity. What are the reasons that have prevented Muslims from being united? What are the obstacles which have blocked the path of our unity? We should look for the obstacle in the word violation, in egotism and transgression. However, we should expand this further and discover the grounds of unity and those things that prevent us from achieving it.

If we are looking for true unity, namely, for the entire Islamic ummah to act as one unified and perfect party, if we wish all one billion Muslims to cooperate with one another, this would require one sort of measure—and whether such a thing is possible at the moment or not, personally I do not believe such a thing is possible for a long time. However, eventually it will be possible. Or we are not looking for complete and perfect unity in the form of a party that includes us all—as according to the Koran all Muslims are Hezbollah and a single ummah. If this is not possible, at least cooperation is possible. Even if we say that cooperation in every field is impossible, at least a lack of clashes, a lack of hostility, and a lack of neutralizing one another is possible if a correct international method is adopted by the world of Islam. Of course, the Muslim 'ulema should lead the way in this venture, and they should then be followed by Islamic governments.

Complete cooperation can be acheived when we have the following: a single world view, a single objective in our movements, a single ideology—meaning the principles governing social movements that guide people—a single strategy, and the ability to chose a single method for executive and practical matters. We need these so we can move in unison. How far is this possible at the moment? We must say it is quite difficult as we do not want to be idealists. We can see this within one country, one religion, within our own revolution. There are divergent paths, although there are no differences in world view or in ideology. The Shi'a doctrine is the ideology of our revolution. Perhaps we find differences in our strategies for action and more so in our tactics, but our objectives are the same. We may have differences but these do not impede our cooperation in important issues. For instance, when the spirit of the revolution is endangered, such as by war and other crucial issues, we are all united. But certain instances arise in which we may have differences.

If we want to have the same degree of unity outside this doctrine, in other doctrines, this is a bit more difficult, because different ideologies exist. But our world view is almost the same as the rest of the Islamic world. We Muslims have a singular world view. In leadership we have diverging views, the viewpoints of imamate and the leadership is naturally very influential and this creates a problem that we must overcome. But some of the obstacles that exist are internal ones; that is, they are not related to aliens, foreigners, colonialism, and foreign intrusion. We must be able to resolve these among ourselves first, so we have no differences over fundamental issues. Moreover, petty issues are also important. The fact that you have organized a unity week means that there is a very profound difference when you go back to the roots. History has not always been as it is now, when every event is registered at the moment of its occurrance. That is why there are differences about whether the prophet was born on the 12th or the 17th of the [lunar] months. [passage omitted]

These differences are very natural. If we had precise dates about these events, then it would be unnatural. When history was retold, it was said either the 12th or the 17th of the month. Should this become the source of argument, divergence, and antagonism? One might say there is no difference, we commemorate both dates. But this disrupts the harmony. If the whole Islamic world commemorates one day as the prophet's birthday, if the entire Muslim world stages special ceremonies and programs to commemorate this day, this is much better.

An even worse example is that of Ramadan. Which is the first day of Ramadan? Is it acceptable that Ramadan starts in our country today, for example, in Saudi Arabia the next day, and in Morocco 2 days later? Well, this entails its own ceremonies, rituals, and festivals. In the past there was no radio or newspaper. Everybody used to attend to his own affairs in the den of his house. But now the whole world wants the first day of Ramadan, the 'Id-e Fitr and the attendant ritual prayers, to be marked with unity and harmony. The differences in this respect are very harmful. Instead of receiving benefits, we are harmed, and the arguments intensify. [passage omitted]

At the moment the world of Islam can be likened to a household in which its members relate to one another at every moment. The further we go, the more serious the issues become. So you see that from petty issues like these problems can arise. Then there are major problems, such as whether 'Ali ibn Talib [the first Shi'ite imam] is the immediate successor of the prophet or is Abu Bakr [the first caliph in orthodox Islam]. How to resolve this historical eventuality and this notion is one of our important problems, and other current important problems in jurisprudence such as divergance of views in the judiciary, in [word indistinct], in divorce, and in marriage. There are lots of problems in these aspects.

Therefore, within ourselves, in the Islamic community, we have enough grounds for deviation. We do not have too many of these grounds in the realm of Islamic world view. We have a consensus on issues pertaining to creation and the day of judgment. We have no argument in the principle of the prophetic mission, nor in the Koran, although some people pose some issues. When we descend lower, we see that internal problems do really exist. Choosing the objectives of the Islamic Republic and appropriate strategies and tactics causes some problems in light of the present circumstances in the world. These are themselves obstacles to unity.

Externally, more important problems are involved. Factors for internal differences exist and foreigners study these carefully and like to point them out. Every day they find something new. Frankly, if an organization is created in the United States, England, or the Soviet Union with the role of inciting the existing differences in the Islamic world, they can produce results almost every hour. They can sit down and produce programs—radio facilities are now available everywhere, in every house, as are many television sets and satellites. They can constantly put their fingers on those sensitive issues that pit us against one another. They can print a book which was written 100 years ago when the Shi'ite and Sunni sects clashed and wrote antagonistically about one another. Then LE MONDE or THE WASHINGTON POST, for example, print it and radio stations broadcast it. More and more differences arise as a result. Through the use of the means at their disposal, through their servants and the hireling individuals they have in Islamic world, they incite internal problems every minute. They incite factions to abuse one another and despoil each others' sacred things. After all, some Muslims in history are revered and constitute sources of pride and honor. [passage omitted]

The procedure in our work should be to mention our positive points and to say that we possess these points. We must not impose antagonistic issues or questions on anyone. We must express our ideas as if we consider them to be rights. One of the intentions of the world's satans is to pit us against one another, then we embark on mentioning each other's negative points from a personal point of view, instead of speaking of the positive points. This will not produce any benefit but creates problems.

They do not want us to unite. They are aware of the consequences of this unity. While we have grounds for internal differences, they are busy inciting us to prevent us from cooperating with one another. Should we surrender to this? These are the obstacles. Some thinking must be done about it. The path that the Koran has specified for us to resolve these problems should be followed. We must take action via that route. The Islamic men of religious authority should take pioneering steps in this respect. We really need a practical solution and should use it for the purpose of unification. We must choose a path acceptable to everyone and then proceed step by step toward Islamic unity.

As I said before, complete and total unity is a bit difficult, but cooperation is quite possible. If we say that cooperation in all fields is not possible, then at least we have grounds for cooperation on the fundamentally important issues that threaten Islam. In these regards we can find our common denominators on the basis of which we can start cooperating. The Islamic nations, therefore, will come to know the joy of cooperation and will be encouraged to develop cooperation further.

If a group is comprised of recognized, appropriate, and resistant Islamic figures—those who do not easily frighten and who are prepared to make sacrifices—they will take steps toward the materialization of this cooperation. For instance, on the issue of deciding the start of the Islamic lunar months, they must come together and meet with the famous religious specialists and observe the new moon in a single center. [passage omitted]

This group can carry out the same type of work regarding the prophet's birthday. It must carry out historical research, find the most reliable records, then announce a date. Furthermore, this date must be accepted, and this requires making suitable preparations for it. For instance, important international forums must be notified, such as the Iranian leadership, Al-Adhar, centers in Saudi Arabia, centers in Egypt, Damascus, African countries, India, Pakistan, and every other country whose people respect this great character.

These gentlemen should gather and resolve these small problems that do not excite ideological sensitivities too much. We must start from these problems and take some positive steps. These have secondary benefits, too. This is one line of work. Another is the important political and economic issues of the Islamic world on which we can hold a common position. For example, there is the question of Palestine. Of course, this is outside the dimension of the 'ulema of Islam and enters the dimension of statesmen and rulers, which renders it a bit more difficult. However, we should take the preliminary steps toward an assembly such as the one described, which could even deal with these issues, because the greatest power in the Islamic world at present is the people's religious spirit, without a doubt. It is so in Sunni community circles and among the Shi'ites, each according to his own creed. If there is an acceptable religious current in the world, if we were to have an assembly, this assembly can mobilize Islamic nations along distinct directions such as the Palestine question or that of oil or the domination of foreigners. It can mobilize them in a general way.

This task is difficult right now. One country's leadership owes allegiance to the United States, for instance, another's government owes allegiance to the USSR, another one is nonaligned, another is pro-British. These problems exist. In every country, 'ulema there are restricted by certain limitations and problems that are special to their own situation and thus, if we are to pay attention to the realities that exist, we can see that it is difficult to work this way. If we can create—outside these existing world realities—a free, really free, center comprised of sincere and good intentioned Islamic 'ulema who could articulate interests pertaining to Islam and Islamic societies, they could, for instance, place the question of Palestine, the liberation of Palestine, among the most important issues over which there should be cooperation in the Islamic world. They would be backed by hundreds of millions of Muslims.

For instance, in our own Iran, if the leadership accepts this issue, one or two persons could be present in that assembly, on behalf of the leadership. The 'ulema of Pakistan could do the same. The same goes for the 'ulema of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other countries—if they gather there and if they identify issues over which there could be cooperation in the Islamic world and declare this in the (?seminar) I think that the governments of Islamic countries could do a lot toward this task. And those who will commit offenses will be defeated; they will be defeated from within their own countries. If this assembly could work in this way and if a large number of Islamic governments were to cooperate and channel Islamic resources behind this thought, then those who want to commit offenses would be humiliated. The great Islamic movement for the liberation of Palestine would begin and its backup columns would come forward and the problem would be solved.

Let us discuss the question of OPEC. You can see how many losses we are incurring with less production now—15 to 16 million bpd [barrels per day], close to 18 million bpd,—going from Islamic countries to mostly non-Islamic countries, and to countries that are wealthy not poor, because only a small part of this (?flow) goes to Third World countries, Africa, or Latin America. This is where the oil goes and all of these places together do not consume as much as a district in Japan. For instance, the United States imports 6 million bpd, Japan imports 4 million bpd, Britain so much, France so much, and some small countries tucked away in Africa import several thousand, which is nothing in comparison. We could even give away oil to them for free; that is, if the price of oil stands at its correct amount, we could even say that these countries could receive quotas free of charge. We could give them the oil (?as charity), it would not be a problem and would not amount to much.

So, with 18 million bpd, the real price of oil can only be understood in terms of the product itself. A barrel of oil is transformed, for instance, in petrochemical plants. Then they re-export it to for $500-1,000 more, sometimes. And we have not even surrendered it all. They sell it! Even if the price of oil rose naturally to $30 per barrel as it did after the creation of the Islamic Republic, you can still see how much we are losing every day from each barrel of oil. If we are to assume that we are selling every barrel of oil per day $20 cheaper to wealthy oil consuming countries, this amounts to $400, 350 million (?in losses).

Now, even when the price was $30 they got together, sowed discord, and grudgingly brought down the price of their own oil just to hit at the economic foundation of the Islamic Republic, to weaken Islam and weaken us. This is what they did. If $20 were added to the price of each barrel of oil, this would amount to $400-500 million per day. Therefore, we are pouring about $200 billion into the pockets of the world's capitalists!

If we were to spend $200 billion in one year on the reform and affairs of the world's Islamic societies, if this were spent on education, training, economic expansion, road building, ports, factories, then we could make all Islamic countries affluent. We really can. I should say that this same assembly of Islamic 'ulema are able to do this, if such an assembly is created. They can issue edicts saying that no Islamic country has the right to sell oil below its calculated economic price. Then, inside Islamic countries, when an oil minister goes to OPEC and says that oil should sell at, for instance, $12 per barrel, he would not dare to return to his own country. We should create an opening through Islamic deeds among Islamic countries to eliminate opposition and differences. This is the root of the problem. If there were no differences, things would not be the way they are.

Right now, when we attend OPEC meetings, we cannot solve anything. And the roots of this are the same differences that exist between Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and others. They cannot make correct decisions because of the problems and issues you know about. We are incurring losses this way, in the world of Islam due to. [incomplete sentence as heard] Of course, the source of these differences is not religious; it is political. They have not said anywhere else that you should supply Islamic needs [zarurat-e eslami] to others cheaper. And no religious laws accepts this kind of thinking. However, if the opposition that exists, the same opposition that prevents us from uniting, does not allow us to secure Islamic interests and to call for an authority to carry out this task, then this authority should be within OPEC itself. Well, it does not exist there; OPEC does not have this power to solve the problems that exist. However, if we had a serious authority that could determine the ways Islamic societies could cooperate, I provided you with two exemples, one is the question of Palestine, and the other is this same question of oil.

We have many such issues. In Lebanon, you can see for yourself what is happening. The majority of people are Muslims; either they are Shi'ites or others. More than two-thirds of the people in Lebanon are now Muslims. And there was this oppressive tradition in the past which decreed that their president should be a Christian. Why should the president be a Christian when the Christians are the third minority group? Why? Because there, it is the president who is in charge [hameh-kareh]. Real power rests with the president. The speaker of the parliament is a Shi'ite; the prime minister is a Sunni; and they have made up parliament to the advantage of the Christians. The speaker of their parliament cannot really do much. It is the parliament that can do things. [passage omitted] Now they have even—after realizing that they could not get anywhere—taken this setup from the Muslims. They made Michel 'Awn prime minister instead of a Sunni, and the Sunni country of Iraq comes along and approves of this same Christian, Michel 'Awn, a Kita'ib Maronite! How can one carry such pain? If Islamic 'ulema had a serious presence this issue would be treated as a completely Islamic issue, short of its political or other consequence. This is an Islamic issue; they should condemn it as sacrilege. What is happening in the world?

Consider Kashmir. The majority of our Muslims are there. Who should address their problems? We have Muslims in the Phillippines, in other societies—we have 3 to 4 million Muslims in France—but they are helpless. But you see, in Iran, we give a vote in the Islamic Consultative Assembly to our several-thousand-strong minority community of Assyrians, Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians, so they may have a say in government. Other countries have not done anything for our 4 to 5 million people. In London, there are more than 1 million Muslims. What kind of presence do we have in the British Parliament? Yet, there are several thousand or many tens of thousands of Zionists, Jews, in London who have actually got official power. They have several competent deputies in the British Parliament. Who is supporting the Muslims of London, Paris, Washington? Who? If there were such an assembly and if it were an esteemed assembly, it could study these Islamic issues, follow them up, and stand by Muslims. Then it would become a focal point of cooperation. I am talking about unity. We have a lot of grounds, a basis for cooperation. We should try to resolve disputes, so that even if we are not united in the full sense of the word, we could at least resolve disputes. If such a judicial authoritative assembly existed, if 'ulema accepted by the Islamic world were to assemble, they could pass judgment on disputed cases in the Islamic world. And their judgment would be extremely effective. It would apply pressure. In the Iraq-Iran war, if there were Islamic persons who were accepted from the start, they would not have allowed this war to have happened or to have been prolonged. There were always disputes in the Palestinian problem. There are many such examples. [passage omitted]

We could create this international center if we practice some tolerance. We should tend toward tolerance. If we think we can give ourselves the right to insult in our books or speeches or sermons anyone who is sacred to the Sunnis or if they give themselves the right to insult things that are holy to us, then athis will not work. Friendship cannot come about like this, though perhaps we may have to cooperate in certain areas. But this is not true friendship and is not the basis of our cooperation. Under existing circumstances and in the current approaches and methods, even if we do cooperate, it is only superficial.

It would be impossible to turn this into a worldwide phenomenon because if our Sunni community in Iran and Shi'ite community in Iraq are forced to live in peaceful coexistence due to the law, due to their common interest, this does not necessarily apply to us and the people of Indonesia, for instance. The obligation does not hold and we can insult each other from afar, quarrel with each other, and annoy each other. And all without any results. Some people say we express our opinions. Well, we have to say what we think; this is our duty. We have to (?say what is true). After all, we have to see the results of this.

But what have been the results so far? What have we solved this way? The important result is that some Jews have gathered in Israel and we do not have the power to remove Israel and liberate Palestine. The important result is that they are exploiting our oil and we cannot sell our oil at the proper price. The important result is that the lackeys of the United Staes, Britain, and the USSR are ruling in the countries of the Islamic world. We are losing the fundamental principles of Islam, yet we keep happily undermining each other over things that do not give us any results. And it has been this way so far. But this method was not adopted by our imams, by our prophets, by the great personalities of early Islam. [passage omitted]

What I say is that the Muslims need high-mindedness [se'eh-sadr] and this high-mindedness does not exist. Look at our enemies, these countries like the Westerners. They have many disputes over their material interests, yet they have come together and created a common market, a common parliament; they sit and collaborate with each other. They also continuously fool us. Even the Russians and the Americans are collaborating because they saw that a new spark emerged from the Muslims—the Islamic movement now poses a threat to the interests of arrogance. Iran has made them aware that they should think of some way to protect themselves. So they are collaborating and we Muslims wind up in this situation.

Mecca could be a means to bring about unity; we should be doing these things in Mecca. Unfortunately, Mecca is not a very suitable place and does not possess the right conditions. But these tasks should be done in Mecca. There should have been a house of consultation [dar ol-showra'] in Mecca, next to the house of God, where a permanent assembly of such 'ulema would, on waking up every day, switch on the radio to receive their instructons regarding the current issues of the Islamic world. If this were done in the Islamic world a lot of work could be done and Islam would become very powerful and not be burdened by meaningless differences among Muslims. [passage omitted]

In any case, we thank those who (?are) about Islamic unity and who participated in this gathering. We also thank those who made the effort to organize this gathering. We expect a practical movement, an executive one, to emerge from this seminar, which has been held for several years now. I know the task is extremely difficult but it is not impossible. [passage omitted]

I hope God will guide us in this great path should we want to work toward it and take the preliminary steps. Then, perhaps we may be able to resolve this fundamental problem in the world of Islam, and others who will come after us will complete these initial steps. May God's blessings and benedictions be on you.

Pakistan

Soviet Assistance Planned for 12 Projects

BK0111061188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] It is expected that 12 important projects at a cost of 60 billion rupees will be implemented in the country with Soviet assistance. Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq told a news conference in Islamabad yesterday that a Pakistani delegation will go to the Soviet Union next month to give final shape to this matter. These projects include the Chashma atomic power plant, the extension of Pakistan Steel, the modernization of the Pakistan machine tool factory in Karachi, and the phosphate mining project in NWFP. Mechanization of cotton processing in Punjab, the Mirani Dam project in Baluchistan, the education project in (Nowkundi), the construction of the Karachi-Jam Shoro transmission line, and exploration for oil in some parts of the country will also be completed with Soviet assistance.

Minister Reveals Study on Economic Performance

BK3110115488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The country's economy has successfully weathered a combination of adverse circumstances and has risen to emerge in a fairly strong position. This has been stated in a detailed review of the economic position during the first quarter of the current financial year which was released to a news conference in Islamabad today by the federal finance minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq. He said inflationary pressures have considerably slowed down after an abnormal price rise in July this year. Overall increase in consumer price index during the current year is likely to be less than 10 percent. The balance of payment position has strengthened in the first quarter despite a substantial fall in [overseas Pakistani] remittances. The trade deficit was reduced by 12.4 percent as compared to last year. About foreign exchange reserves, the federal minister contradicted reports that these have gone down to 170 million dollars. He said the factual position is that the reserves stand at over 1.3 billion dollars including both gold and cash.

President Receives Turkish Transport Minister

BK3010162688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Mr Ekrem Pakdemirli, Turkish minister for transport and communications, had a meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this afternoon and conveyed to him warm greetings from President Kenan Evren. The president reciprocated the warm feelings and remarked that economic ties between Pakistan and Turkey should be as close as political ties. Many areas of trade collaboration, joint ventures, and cooperation in the private sector of the two countries were discussed. The Turkish minister also met the federal food and agriculture minister, Mr Sartar Aziz, and discussed measures for promoting bilateral cooperation. A meeting between Turkish and Pakistani businessmen was held in Islamabad today. During the meeting a number of proposals were made for further promotion of trade relations between the two countries.

Four Indian Fishing Trawlers Seized

BK3110152488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The Maritime Security Agency has seized four Indian fishing trawlers which were illegally fishing in Pakistan's sea boundary.